

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

Senate Health Care Committee Members

Senate Committee on Health Care

State Capitol, Room 453

Salem, OR 97301

Senator Monnes Anderson:

I am a 59 year old single mother when I was first diagnosed with kidney disease. I was working full time in the same job for 9+ years, and supporting my daughter in her senior year of high school. During that year, my daughter chose to join the Navy to become a corpsman. She joined on her 18th birthday. I was so proud of her dedication to serve and was also feeling confident that I could continue going forward living by myself and working hard to make everything work. With Chronic Kidney Disease, it takes a lot to dedicate myself to attend doctor appointments and to do the health requirements to stay as healthy as possible.

Unfortunately, my luck ran out and I had to go on to Peritoneal Dialysis in October of 2016. During the transition, I continued to work full time. There were many times that I had complications. However, with the help of the staff at my clinic and their knowledge in patient care, I was able to continue to work.

In July of 2018, I was let go of my position due to my disability. It is difficult to explain the fear I felt that plagued me knowing that I was going to lose my insurance. It was bad enough to lose my job, but to also wonder how I was going to pay for my COBRA without income. My insurance counselor was able to help me with the requirements that I needed to allow American Kidney Fund to help me to have the coverage to go forward with my insurance. With their help, I'm able to keep my home and keep a little independence for someone suffering with this disease.

I feel that I am a lucky patient due to me being able to take care of myself in my own home. It gives me peace of mind that there are programs that help people like me.

I am grateful for the help.

Thank you for American Kidney Fund for their support!!

Valerie Bevier