

221 Lauren Circle
Wharton, WV 25208
October 2, 2012

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, New York 10004-1408

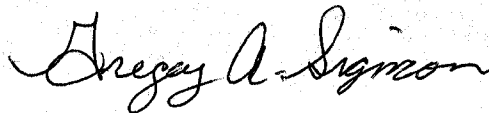
Dear Judge Chapman,

My name is Gregory Allen Sigmon, and I live in a small coal mining town in Southern West Virginia. I have lived and worked in this community my entire life. I worked in the coal industry for twenty-eight years, mostly for Peabody Coal Company, who sold out to Patriot Coal Company. I became disabled while I was working for Peabody in 2000.

If I were to lose my health care, it would be devastating to me and my wife. I alone take nine prescription medications on a daily basis. These prescriptions are for the triple bypass heart surgery I had nine months ago, high blood pressure, underactive thyroid, high cholesterol, and arthritis. I recently had to have my gallbladder removed, during which time I spent four days in the hospital. I also have no meniscus in my knees due to the many years I spent mining coal.

There is no way possible I could afford to go to the doctor for my illnesses or to pay for the prescription medications I take to maintain a healthy life if I were to lose my health care. Without a way to continue my medical care, my health would deteriorate and lead to my death. I would leave behind my wife, son, daughter, son in-law, and three amazing grandsons. My family means the world to me, which is why I spent nearly thirty years of my life working in harsh conditions to provide for them. I beg of you to think about the men who spent a lifetime working to make a better life for their families and to secure a retirement for themselves and their wives. Please consider the families that will be affected by your decision, and the companies that broke contracts and promises to these families. The fault in this case is clearly one sided.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gregory A. Sigmon