

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

Cookeville mother of three Leanne Lynch waited tables for 25 years. When she was diagnosed with leukemia last February she became too sick to work. She qualified for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and received TennCare. Medicare would not start for two years. A few months later, she began receiving social security disability income. TennCare paid for the chemotherapy that put her cancer into remission.

When the couple learned that a perfect bone marrow donor had been found, they began working to schedule the transplant, which could save her life. Leanne and Bill were hopeful.

However, Leanne's TennCare has now been terminated because the SSI/Daniels TennCare category of eligibility that she first got, is now being closed.



Leukemia patient Leanne Lynch was slated to receive a bone marrow transplant before she was dropped from TennCare. Now, she and her husband cannot afford the life-saving procedure.

She and Bill have already been notified that she will not get the transplant unless she has health insurance. **“It’s like she’s been put on death row for being a poor person in Tennessee,”** Bill says. “We need some justice.” Leanne’s wants are small. “I want my normal life back,” she says. “I want to go to work, hang out with my kids and my husband and cook meals.”

Bill has been a cook for 26 years and is not able to get insurance for his wife through his work where he makes about \$1,300 per month. Buying just one of Leanne’s needed prescriptions without insurance would make the two homeless. They have already spent all of their savings on Leanne’s medical bills and are still in about \$8000 of medical debt.

Leanne’s disability would definitely qualify her for TennCare’s medically needy category were it to be reopened. If Leanne could get TennCare, she could receive the life-saving transplant her doctor says she needs.



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