

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now



Grace (71) and Larry (69) Bos sit for a portrait with their adopted grandchildren Josh and Renee. Renee is currently uninsured. Josh will be losing his health insurance this coming October.

Grace and Larry Bos of Loudon, TN recently adopted their two grandchildren Renee and Josh, who are both mildly retarded and have learning disabilities. Renee and Josh have enjoyed stability, safety and good health in their retired grandparents loving household. **Last year, however, Renee turned 19 and was dropped from TennCare due to her age.** Living on social security and limited savings, Grace and Larry cannot afford to buy private health insurance for Renee. Grace and Larry worry about their uninsured granddaughter. Although Renee has completed a vocational training program, she is only qualified for menial labor jobs, which rarely offer health insurance.

This coming October, Josh will be turning 19 and will also no longer be eligible for TennCare. Before being adopted by Grace and Larry, Josh was abused in other homes and left with long-term emotional problems, for which he still needs medication. His medications cost about \$1000 per month without insurance, which Grace and Larry can't supply. Private health insurance is out of the question and employer-based health insurance is highly unlikely. **"We don't know what's going to happen to him," Grace says.**

Grace and Larry are concerned that their Renee may get in an accident or develop an illness, which requires medication they cannot afford. They do not know how they will afford Josh's medications when he becomes uninsured this fall. Additionally, Josh and Renee's mother had serious problems with cancer, so Grace and Larry know the children will need periodic screenings throughout their lives. They do not know how Renee and Josh will receive healthcare in the future.



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