

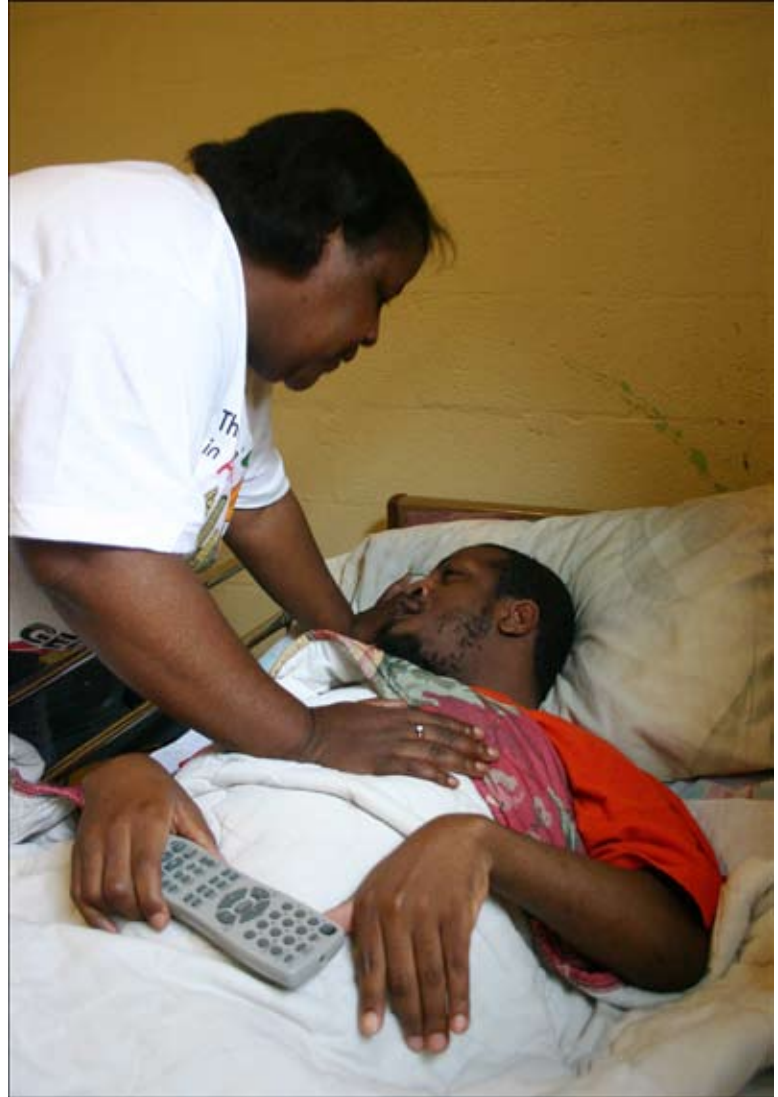
2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

Nancy Patton of Nashville wonders when the governor will fulfill his promise to expand alternatives to nursing homes, as her family is stripped of home health care services and given less than two weeks to make an alternate plan. Nancy has a 29-year-old son with cerebral palsy and severe mental retardation, whom she has cared for his entire life. In order to keep Jerry from a nursing home, Nancy put off her education, her career, relationships, and much more in order to give him the round-the-clock care he needs. Nancy's daily duties include bathing, feeding, changing his diapers, and tending to Jerry's every need.

When in-home skilled nursing became available to her family through TennCare Nancy immediately took the opportunity to go school and become a medical assistant. Just before she graduated, however, Nancy received notification that Jerry's nursing care would be so drastically limited under the governor's new cuts

that she would not be able to live her dream of working as a medical assistant or improve her family's financial means. Although she is now a trained professional ready to work, she must stay at home and continue caring for Jerry while relying on public assistance, or be forced to put her son in a nursing home—which is an alternative no mother would willingly choose.



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