

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

My husband Danny Mosley worked for 30 years at the Metro Water Department. He became ill two years ago due to a staph infection in his ankle and has since become disabled. We have health insurance that we get through his once-employer, for which we pay \$400 per month. He has a \$3,000 annual deductible that we have to pay out of pocket. I max out our credit cards in order to pay for the doctor visits and 24 daily prescriptions. **We have \$5,000 of medical debt.**

Besides managing heart disease, asthma and depression, Danny is also a type II diabetic. Diabetics have to eat a balanced diet and carefully monitor their carbohydrate and fat in-take. We don't have enough money for groceries, so Danny doesn't eat the correct balanced food that he should eat on a daily basis. **In February of this year, Danny didn't take some of his medicines because we couldn't afford to pay for them.** His blood sugar got way out of control and he ended up being hospitalized. His doctor said he was on the verge of having a stroke.



Pat Petty (center) sits with her husband Danny Mosely and grandson Brad. The family has trouble controlling Danny's diabetes due to the expense of his prescriptions.

I may add that we are also raising our 13-year-old grandson. We are receiving no benefits for Brad, who has said to me, **"Take my allowance and buy Pawpaw's medicine."** Although I struggle to make ends meet, I gently refuse the offerings of my grandson to chip in for Pawpaw's medications. No child should have to advocate for what is a human right for all. No American should choose between medication and food or a doctor's visit and rent. However, if you are one of millions of Americans who work and live from paycheck to paycheck, and you are in the middle class -- if you have an illness, and if you are out of work due to that illness, will you be on the streets? **Middle-class families and working Americans are shouldering a heavy load.**

I get frustrated when I think about my family's dilemma. I lay awake at night and worry about how I am going to pay for Danny's medicine or how am I going to pay for the credit card that I have maxed out in paying for Danny's medicine. Or, God forbid, what if I become ill? Or what if I lose my full-time job? What will happen then? What will happen to our home? Who would take care of Danny? What will happen to Brad? Will we be another family that will be living on the streets?

Danny's mother Genevia Tuttle passed away a few years ago due to leukemia. She had managed it successfully for 17 years until she was dropped from Medicaid and could not afford the medications that kept the disease from progressing. **I'm afraid Danny will eventually meet the same fate as his mother.** He is already planning on rationing his diabetes medicines near the end of this year so that he can save up for 2010, when we have to meet our deductible again.



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