

high,' she told me, lamented further that, 'like I was talking with my doctor, you almost have to call the insurance companies to get the approval for what drugs you can prescribe—insurance companies are driving the show . . . they give the discounts or I think they're in the cahoots with some of the drug companies. They say 'Oh, we're having a special on Lipitor' and so they push Lipitor.' We talked about the pharmaceutical companies and that drug costs just seemed to be too high." Krystal—Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"Being self-employed, and that business was not so good this year, Uprendra cannot afford health coverage. He is not insured, nor is any of the staff. He has diabetes and gets his insulin, when he can, as free drug samples from his brother, who is a retired doctor. I was humbled by his generosity, the complimentary room and the \$20 donation, his wife (and hotel co-operator) Sheila, gave me when I checked out the following morning." Uprendra—Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"Brittany, on the left, told me she has no insurance. She said, 'I think everybody should have insurance. You never know what will happen. I've been sick and had to pay cash and it's not cheery.'" Brittany—Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"Amanda, like Brittany on the left, also has no insurance and now has 'tons of medical bills.' She told me she is slowly—'very slowly,' she put it—paying for them." Amanda—Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"Ed was in the service, in the Philippines during World War II. He was later an electrician at the Harvard Cyclotron in Cambridge (on Oxford Street). He has had many medical problems but hasn't had any difficulties being on Medicare. Some things are not paid for but by-and-large, he's happy. He has often thought that universal health care insurance should be provided by the government and that higher taxes were likely necessary. 'If the government managed its budget better, there'd be money to pay for it,' he added. He also said, 'People without health care insurance live under handicapped conditions. With insurance, a wage-earner can be free to concentrate on his family, his education, and think more clearly.' He was very happy I met with him and concluded, 'I'm so surprised at the opportunity to talk.'" Ed—Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"The most telling story came to us in a Mexican store down the street. I spoke with one of the counter people, who wished not to be identified. She told us that she did have insurance (through her husband) and that she was happy with the system and that she would not change anything. Then, next to the register, I noticed a posted sign with a picture of a young boy in a hospital bed pleading for \$100,000 to help with a kidney transplant. Doesn't that tell it all?" Warsaw, 7/1/2009

"I'm unemployed,' Scott told me, 'and don't have no insurance. But, I've been pretty healthy, 'cept my teeth here—gotta work on that sometime.' I nodded. 'The difficult story is with my girlfriend. She works part-time and also no insurance. She makes too much for HIP (Indiana public assistance program) so that's that. A few months ago, she had a kidney stone and the local hospital wouldn't take care of her so they sent her to Indianapolis. The pain was so bad and she ended up having some operation there.' He said that there was no way they could pay any of the bills being that they were barely making ends meet. We drove by the trailer park that was their home and he told me how they were lucky, that the next trailer park up in Columbia City had been recently hit by a tornado and a few homes destroyed. Throughout the trip Scott was glowingly optimistic. But as he was about to drop me off, his face turned sour. 'Tell those

knuckleheads in Washington to get with it out here.'" Scott—Columbia City, 7/2/2009

"Last December Trushar had fallen down in an ice storm, breaking his left wrist. He was without health insurance and making do with the pain, waited a week—by this time it had become considerably swollen—to have it eventually seen by a family friend, who happened to be a doctor. The family ended up spending about \$500 for various x-rays, the visit to the doctor was free, but he was told that if it had gotten worse, the surgery for it would cost about \$25,000. If that came to pass, they decided that Trushar (who is a U.S. citizen) would go back to India to have the surgery." Trushar—Ft. Wayne, 7/2/2009

"Hina's one of the workers at the hotel—doubles up as back-up front desk and housekeeping. In fact, it seemed like everyone had a hand in all aspects of the operation. Hina's had what she called a 'muscle lock' in her neck, which sounded to me like a cervical muscle spasm, perhaps even a herniated cervical disk—hard to tell. In any case, she's had no insurance and hasn't seen a doctor or been to a hospital for it. She remains in pain, housekeeping work is hard, and this is making it harder. She looks warily around. I know that this hotel staff is like family, and they likely wouldn't fire her for a situation that is undoubtedly compromising her productivity. But in a crueler world (which is quite common), she'd be out, replaced by someone else healthier, but also without insurance. Hina, in a way, is lucky." Hina—Ft. Wayne, 7/2/2009

"It was back in 2002 that Bonnie lost her job of 22 years. At that time, she had been on COBRA though, 'it was incredibly expensive,' she recalled. She has insulin-dependent diabetes, high blood pressure, and 'Charcot joints.' Her insurance and medications cost \$1,500 a month. 'When you don't have insurance you don't have any choices,' she said.'" Bonnie—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Pat shared with me a friend's story. Her daughter, diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis since the age of 26 had been suffering for many years. A six-week course of Remicade cost her \$7,200 and, as Pat told me, 'Her mother has cashed in her 401K,' to pay for that. 'Nothing should cost \$7,200.'" Pat—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Nate's a young and relatively healthy guy. 'Last year, in December, I came down with pneumonia,' he told me. He's a diabetic and so his illness was complicated by diabetic ketoacidosis, acute kidney failure, staph infections, and 'cardiac issues.' 'I was in the ICU for twelve days, unconscious for a week,' he told me. Even though he just been laid off from his job, he told me, 'he was lucky in the timing of things . . . like a 'roll-of-the-dice,' that he happened to have insurance just when he had gotten deathly ill. And hopefully he won't get so sick again, since COBRA, which he cannot now afford, costs \$800/month especially with his pre-existing conditions . . . and especially being unemployed.'" Nate—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Jessica and her husband were laid off from their RV company (based in Elkhart, Indiana) this past August. They have four kids under the age of 10. They lost all their health coverage and cannot afford COBRA which cost \$1,200/month. The kids are now on Medicaid but they, the parents, are uninsured. 'If something happens to them,' she asked, 'how'll the kids be taken care of?' This is Noah and Chris in the picture also. Today was Noah's birthday too and thanks to the Ft. Wayne rally, he had a big turnout for his party!" Jessica—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Cameron's a 4th year medical student but on a leave of absence to pursue a law degree. He's planning for a career in health advocacy—at the intersection of health and law. As a student, however, he cannot afford, at

\$220/month, the health insurance offered to him. But he's lucky because he gets coverage through his wife who's a resident. In his medical school experiences, he's come across many patients who have foregone medical care because of a lack of health insurance and this has inspired him to help to solve this problem." Cameron—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Terri—an older member of the workforce,' as she put it—is currently unemployed. She has no health insurance and with several chronic conditions, chronic sinusitis and hypertension included, she's 'in a difficult situation,' Terri tells me. Her prescriptions have 'ran out' and without insurance, her doctor won't see her. Even though she asked about a payment plan, 'They told me, they take payment in full.' Terri's an informed person. 'High blood pressure is a silent killer,' she adds, and 'I don't want to be silently killed because I can't get the treatment.' She reminded me that she's certainly not the only one in such a predicament, but told me, 'I'm just speaking out, because everybody has to speak. If you don't speak on it, no one would ever know.'" Terri—Ft. Wayne, 7/3/2009

"Deb works at the Subway in New Haven, just east of Ft. Wayne. Her health coverage costs \$600/month through her husband's union plan (he's a carpenter). 'If I got the insurance on my own,' she told me, 'it'd cost \$850 a month.' She shook her head and said, 'Even though I consider myself lucky, this is crazy!'" Deb—New Haven, 7/3/2009

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS AND CAMILLE OGIBA

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 40th wedding anniversary of Thomas and Camille Ogiba. This event will take place on January 16, 2011, but family and friends are celebrating the event on January 14, 2011.

Thomas Henry Ogiba was born on January 24, 1947, in Stamford, Connecticut, to Henry and Rose Ogiba. His wife, Camille Caruso Ogiba, was born on January 18, 1946, in Stamford, Connecticut, to Pete and Rose Caruso. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ogiba were married on January 16, 1971, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Stamford, Connecticut. Together they raised two children, Thomas and Jena.

Thomas and Camille currently reside in Naples, Florida. I salute this lovely couple on the 40th year of their life together and join their friends and family in honoring them on this special occasion.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan-Flint for being designated an "Engaged University" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The Carnegie Foundation announced this classification yesterday and a

formal presentation will take place on the University of Michigan-Flint campus on Monday, January 10.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching created the "Engaged University" classification to acknowledge the achievements of schools throughout the United States that have created institutional practices of community involvement. Universities apply for the classification and are granted the classification based upon their mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices.

The University of Michigan-Flint was able to demonstrate the integration of curricular engagement, outreach, the exchange of knowledge, and partnerships, with the larger community to the benefit of both groups. The school has an established practice of honoring faculty for their involvement, encouraging students to extend the education process outside classroom walls, and utilizing the school's resources to enhance the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the chancellor, Dr. Ruth Person, the provost, Dr. Gerard Voland, the faculty, staff, students and community for their vision, enthusiasm and commitment to this partnership. I commend the University of Michigan-Flint for their hard work and for receiving this classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

THE WALK FOR HEALTHCARE:  
HEALTHCARE STORIES FROM  
OHIO COLLECTED BY OGAN  
GUREL, M.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following stories, collected by Dr. Ogan Gurel.

"Jean doesn't want socialized medicine. But she also adds that the current system doesn't pay (or reward) for preventative care. But it wasn't clear to her how either the free-market or government could change that. 'People have to take responsibility for their health,' she told me." Jean—Van Wert, 7/4/2009

"Todd recently lost his job as a machinist. His wife gets health coverage as a school teacher but 'It's not good insurance,' he tells me. 'The out-of-pocket payments are ridiculous,' he added. They have two kids—two and four years old—and he wonders what will happen if they get sick. 'It's a great thing you're doing,' he said, as I shook his hand, thanking him, too, in return." Todd—Van Wert, 7/4/2009

"Mike, in the middle, shared with me his father's situation. 'He's 52 years-old, a retired GM, Delphi employee, salaried, he was.' Mike looked at me to make sure I understood. 'He was a salaried worker,' he repeated. 'Which means they took away all his health benefits last April. Wage-earners got to keep their benefits, you know.' I nodded in acknowledgment. 'So, he's too young for Medicare, and now has a bad, bad situation.'" Mike—Van Wert, 7/4/2009

"John, on the right, told me 'I have good insurance but premiums have gone up 30% in the last year.' He took me in to his garage, out from drizzle, to meet his family and friends. 'I'm not happy with the healthcare situation,' he told me." John—Van Wert, 7/4/2009

"Serving up a cup of coffee, Holly, at the Rooster coffee shop, told me she doesn't have

health insurance. 'I hope basically not to get sick,' she said with a serious look beyond her youth. 'Pretty much that's it.'" Holly—Middle Point, 7/4/2009

"Tara, the cook at the Rooster truck stop near Middle Point, Ohio, has no insurance. 'It's just too much . . . that's the situation.'" Tara—Middle Point, 7/4/2009

"Dee told me the story of her uncle. He had a heart attack a few years back resulting in cardiac surgery and a bill for \$145,000. 'Dee, I'm dying,' he said, not clear, as Dee told me, whether he was referring to his health troubles or the financial burdens. Dee told her uncle to change his diet, do yoga, lots of walking, and other things to improve his lifestyle and health. And so he heeded her advice and actually, to do these things, went back to India. Returning some months later, he proudly called Dee telling her that he was healthier, no longer had diabetes, and no hypertension. But, he lamented, 'I still owe \$145,000.'" Dee—Van Wert, 7/5/2009

"Jim drove out from Ft. Wayne (after hearing the news) and met up with me near Middle Point on his bike. We walked together for seven miles talking healthcare and healthcare reform along with many other topics. He's a Yale grad, which goes to show that even traditional rivalries can walk together towards a common goal. He believes in basic care for all but, as he told me, 'the definition of what is basic becomes problematic. And those that can afford more than the basic,' he added, 'should be able to get it.'" Jim—Gomer, 7/5/2009

"Nancy is 60, without work and without health insurance. She has recently moved in with her mother. She has two prescriptions which cost her \$140 a month and works odd jobs to pay for one of these. She lives one day at a time and hopes that there'll be healthcare reform. 'So people like me can get the prescriptions we need.' We met on a porch in Gomer (she was helping to clean up someone's home) where she brought me some juice. Here she is on the roadside near Lima, later that afternoon, bringing me a glass of water as she was driving to her mother's place." Nancy—Gomer, 7/5/2009

"Gloria's husband died three years ago. She now has \$1,600 a month between Social Security and the Ford pension. 'It's a good plan,' with prescriptions at \$2 each, she told me. Her other story, which bothered her deeply, was about her son. He had retired after 22 years of distinguished service in the Navy—the highly stressful submarine service once dueling daily, in secret, with the Soviet Navy. He had a quadruple bypass and also an abdominal aneurysm operation. 'All that went well,' she said, 'but he had a very tough time getting reimbursed, especially since his operations left him very sick and weak.' He had to fight to be reimbursed while lying in bed recovering. 'I've seen other veterans have the same struggles,' Gloria told me. 'And it's a real shame we treat our heroes this way.'" Gloria—Lima, 7/5/2009

"Grace, the youngest, hasn't had any healthcare troubles and is hoping to get insurance as a student when she enrolls in college. She does believe that some sort of healthcare reform is necessary." Grace—Lima, 7/5/2009

"Kimberly has a brain aneurysm, which, she told me, 'they are watching.' She's also had a falling bladder problem, which they are not doing surgery on. In terms of insurance, she's on Medicaid and Medicare but told me, 'I can't afford the medicines'. Otherwise, it's not been a problem. Everybody,' she added smiling with a serious look, 'should have insurance.' Her effervescent daughter, Tiffany, gave her mother a hug." Kimberly—Lima, 7/5/2009

"Steve, a financial consultant, wants the government out of healthcare. He believes

that health insurance should be private (and through the employer). 'Government messes everything up,' he tells me. 'Actually, I make my living fixing up government accounting troubles,' he added. But he does believe that the healthcare system could be much more efficient." Steve—Lima, 7/6/2009

"Brad, the manager at the Lima Holiday Inn, was enormously helpful and supportive of the Walk. When I met him, he agreed that it's important to get the story out and told me, 'it is really terrible with all the uninsured. Even if you have insurance,' he added, 'I've seen how difficult it is dealing with the insurance companies.'" Brad—Lima, 7/6/2009

"With an angry look on his face, Roger told me very clearly that does not like the Obama plan at all. But he also doesn't like corporate interests driving reform. 'We do need some change—it's incredibly expensive,' he told me further, citing his father's case. He had gotten a pacemaker and defibrillator and, 'Everything cost more than \$200,000!'" Roger—New Stark, 7/6/2009

"Kara's 19 years old and had most recently been just under her parent's health coverage. 'But after nineteen, they take you off,' she told me, and she's now in the process of re-enrolling in her own plan. During this switch, she's actually without coverage. She sighed, 'My current job doesn't pay enough to afford insurance and then, when I'm in college, two years from now, I'll have to re-apply.' She's got asthma and fibromyalgia. It's a real problem, she told me as she's 'really worried' about pre-existing conditions disqualifying her or making her insurance too expensive." Kara—Lima, 7/6/2009

"Kate's insurance costs her \$200/month. She threw her hands up and exclaimed, 'That's a car payment!' She looked me in the eye and continued. 'So, I'm 55 and no business not having insurance but I can't afford it.' She told me about her carpal tunnel syndrome, that she had had a mild stroke and a nagging rotator cuff injury. For the rotator cuff, she can't afford the MRI. 'Actually,' she added, 'HCAP, a state program, can take care of the actual MRI but not the reading. So,' she said with a sigh, 'I can't afford it.' Her husband doesn't have health insurance either. 'He's got two bulging discs in his spine but can't do anything about it. So he can't work and spends the day reclining on the couch.'" Kate—Lima, 7/6/2009

"Heather (on the right) is 23 and recently divorced. She had good insurance through the marriage and actually had significant gastrointestinal problems for which she had four surgeries. She had a gall bladder operation, colonoscopies, 'they looked down my stomach too,' and also sinus surgery. She now works two jobs (the one at Applebee's provides insurance but takes up the entire paycheck). 'It's so strange,' she adds, 'I have to get a money order to actually cover it and send it to the health insurance company headquarters—\$120/month. But I went to the dentist and still paid \$30. But without insurance it cost \$40, the dentist told me.' She looked over at her friend, who nodded in sympathy. 'I don't think insurance makes sense at all.'" Heather—Lima, 7/6/2009

"Joe, the flagger at the construction site, believes in individual responsibility and accountability. 'The government always messes things up,' he said, but he likes the Walk—'you're doing a good thing,' and concluded by saying, 'some change is definitely needed.'" Joe—New Stark, 7/7/2009

"I met John, a traveling salesman, at dinner. He's got coverage, for which he is grateful for. He's been pretty healthy but feels that 'it is important that all people have health insurance.'" John—Lima, 7/7/2009

"Reuben actually stopped by the roadside to walk with me. He told me the story of his nephew, who's an Ob-Gyn doctor in Maryland. 'His entire paycheck nearly all goes to