

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