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Testimony in Support of H.R. 4444

My name is Sonia Jaffe. I am a high school student from Brookline Massachusetts. I grew up in various places around Boston

Luckily my only experience in the health care system has been as a well-insured patient from a family who has always made it a point to have good health coverage. A year and a half ago I was diagnosed with stage 4b Hodgkin's lymphoma. The following months were very hard for both me and my family. For the most part the Jimmy Fund dealt with my insurance claims in referrals. The few times that we had to call about coverage and reimbursements created stress that my family didn't need on top of my physical illness and their emotional strain.

I can't imagine what it would be like to have to go through chemotherapy and all the scans and appointments that accompany it while having to worry about finding the monetary means to pay for the indisputably necessary treatment. The Jimmy Fund and various other private and public institutions do provide treatment for life threatening situations, but it's not fair to make people in those situations fill out paperwork and look for someone to cover their costs. It would be more efficient and easier for everyone if coverage was guaranteed through universal health insurance.