

2009 - It's Time!

Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now

Joyce Hollins of Nashville, is 84 years old and has a 64-year-old daughter named Joy who has cerebral palsy. Joyce had cared for her daughter her entire life. Though she cannot speak, Joy communicates with her mother through blinking her eyes in Morse Code. She also has use of her left foot, with which she is able to email her friends. Joy's mother is now too weak to lift her daughter out of bed or transport her to the bathroom or give her physical therapy, so they have a 24/7 home nurse who is able to see to Joy's needs.



Joyce Hollins feeds her daughter using a feeding tube in their home on Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

“As long as I can wiggle, she won't go in a nursing home!” Joyce says, “I'd rob a bank before I let her (nurse) go!” With Governor Bredesen's recent cuts to home nursing however, the Hollins may have their nurse's hours so drastically reduced that Joy's care will be severely limited. The Hollins don't know what they will do. Joyce's neuropathy and fractured knee keep her from being very mobile. Her husband is 88 with dementia is not cognitively able to take care of Joy. If Governor Bredesen would fulfill his promise to expand alternatives to nursing homes, Joyce's daughter could stay at home.



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