



### A WORKING PARENT IN NEED OF MEDICAID: JENNIE VIBAR'S STORY

I am a 29 year old working mother with two children. My son is six; my daughter is two. We live in Arlington, Virginia. My children have health insurance from the FAMIS Plus program. I am uninsured.

I have been very worried about being uninsured. I have seizures that must be treated with very expensive medicine. I never know when I will have a seizure. Sometimes several months or even a year goes by without one. But I must take the medicine every day.

I actually got Medicaid when I was pregnant with my daughter, but two months after she was born, my Medicaid was cut off. They said - for parents - the Medicaid limit for a family of three in Arlington was only about \$400 a month. My income was too high.

I have worked in many places such grocery and retail stores. Sometimes I have worked two part-time jobs at the same time. A few years ago I had private health insurance from my job, but it cost a lot and it wouldn't cover anything related to my seizures, so it really wasn't very helpful. In fact, when I had a seizure at work, I had to pay \$400 for the ambulance that came.

For the past eight months, I have worked at a restaurant. I work 26 hours per week and sometimes more if I'm needed. I earn about \$1000 per month. My children and I share an apartment and expenses with my mother and stepfather. My stepfather is disabled, and Social Security is his only income. My mother helps me with child care, since paying for child care would cost so much.

I was very lucky to learn about the Free Clinic in Arlington. I can see a doctor and get my medicine from the clinic. They also arrange for me to see a neurologist twice a year. I don't know what I would do without this help from the clinic. But people like me who are sick and must take medicine all the time, really need to have health insurance.

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