

## **Nick Dupree's Letter About Chris and MiCASSA**

**Hi everyone**, all my friends and allies:

**Back in January**, I met with the US Congressman for this district, Jo Bonner (R - AL 1st) and presented my case for MiCASSA, the bill I've been pushing that mandates states to provide the home care option to their Medicaid recipients, to him along with director of Mobile Independent Living Center, Michael Davis. He said Michael and I were "the most eloquent spokesmen for your cause" he'd ever heard. Bonner said it'd be hypocritical of him to back Nick's Crusade last year but not sign on to MiCASSA.

**Not long** after this meeting, Bonner became the first Alabamian to sign on to such a home care bill in American history. YES!!!! Round of applause for Bonner!

**This is groundbreaking** progress for this state, but the devastation here has not abated.

**It's not enough.**

**On the ground**, things aren't changing, they're getting worse for the actual families living it. Since March I'm mourning my childhood friend Chris' death. Why is it? I WISH I DIDN'T understand it. Basically it's because this country didn't think it worthwhile to keep him here. Chris' Mom recently brought me old photos of me with Chris when I was 3 or 4 years old. I fought like hell and couldn't get Chris his care back after he was cut off at age 21. Whatever we are doing now, it isn't working. If it was working, I wouldn't be using Chris' medical supplies right now instead of him. More Chrises are out there right now with no support.

**I will continue** with my hands on approach to get people the supports needed to achieve community inclusion instead of death. I have an aggressive Noah's Ark-like mentality, we have to get every person in the community boat before they drown with no supports to keep them afloat. Chris washed away. Many die in the community due to lack of needed support, many die in institutions due to lack of needed support (I contend needed natural supports aren't even POSSIBLE in the institutions -- a family/spouse can't live in an institution with you, for example).

**Still more people** are stuck in their rooms at home wasting their years due to lack of needed support to include them in community, their spirit withering without freedom. My efforts are about saving lives, both physical and emotional.

**It should be clear** to everyone looking at America's health system that we're resting with increasing heft on a glaring swiss cheese safety net here. Please forward the below news article about Chris' death and MiCASSA until EVERYONE knows.

**Peace,**

Nick