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Over 1700 Working Nebraska Families Win Medicaid Benefits in Federal Court

Lincoln, NE-Today the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision in *Bowlin v. Montanez*, upholding a federal district court decision that provided transitional Medicaid benefits to over 1700 working parents in Nebraska. The case was filed by the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest on behalf of Kelly Bowlin of Ogallala and a class of similarly situated low-income, working parents.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services had refused to provide Ms. Bowlin and other low-income working parents like her with “Transitional Medicaid,” at the time they lost their Medicaid benefits due to an increase in their income. Ms. Bowlin lost her Medicaid when she received a \$0.50 an hour raise from her employer.

“This decision will help thousands of low-income working parents meet their health care needs as they transition from welfare to self-sufficiency,” noted Becky Gould, lead counsel for the class and staff attorney with Nebraska Appleseed. “Additionally, the court in reaching its decision noted that under the plain meaning of the federal law at issue here, the working parents in this class are exactly who Congress intended to be eligible for Transitional Medicaid Assistance.”

“Given our failed health care system, Medicaid is really the only health insurance option for these working parents, and they desperately need it to be able to work,” said Gould. “Without the Medicaid health care safety net, Kelly Bowlin and thousands of families just like hers are left in the cold, having nowhere to turn, and ultimately no way to access the care they need to stay healthy and employed. We’re proud to have helped her stand up for these families, and Nebraska Appleseed will continue to defend these families access to Medicaid.”

To view the decision visit: <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/opndir/06/05/052791P.pdf>

To view briefs and other court pleadings visit: <http://www.neappleseed.org/litigation/>

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