Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When Health Issues Persist

Laticia A. - Cedar Rapids, Iowa

***That's Medicaid** shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

Laticia grew up in the foster system, which gave her access to Medicaid coverage. The coverage has supported her through many hospital visits and provided needed medication for a number of gastrointestinal problems, as well as therapy for mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

This is what inspired her to press for a change in the Affordable Care Act that allows young people like her who were in foster care to stay in the program until they are 26 years old—much like the benefit others receive when they are able to receive coverage through a parent's health insurance until that age.

The update to the law will go into effect on January 1, 2023 for those who were on Medicaid as of their 18th birthday.

Now age 24 with a bachelor's degree in social work, Laticia works as a behavioral health specialist.

Laticia will soon transition to private insurance, but she remains an advocate for the services the program can provide.

"I wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for Medicaid" she says. "I wouldn't be able to afford the life-savings treatments that I've received through Medicaid."