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## Helping Mrs.Nick

### Prologue

(Phil, a hard working parole officer that has been on the force for 13 years, his mother has had multiple heart attacks and is on expensive medication that is not covered by health insurance. Phil is talking to the doctor in his living room.)

Phil: (To the doctor) 500 bucks a month?! C'mon doc moneys tight.

Doctor: (Sitting in an armchair in Phil's living room) Sir you act like I can change the price. I'm sorry Mr.Nicks, this medication is guaranteed to treat your mother's condition.

Phil: (Phil getting aggravated) Can you guarantee she lives a while longer?

Doctor: Sir, I can guarantee she gets better if you pay for her meds.

(Phil sighs and agrees to the medication expenses and the doctor leaves his home, the scene then closes)

### Chorus:

(as Phil's conscious)

You're right  
The meds are very expensive  
But family comes first  
You must provide for your family  
This will be better for your entire family  
Your wife and Celia will stop worrying  
Your mother will be in less pain  
Its one less thing to worry about

### Scene 1

(Scene opens in the morning of Philips house and everyone is getting ready for school and work, his daughter packing her backpack, and his wife making a sandwich for Celia (his daughter) and

Philip is sipping coffee while reading the newspaper.)

Phil:(To Phil's wife, Rachel) I have been thinking...

Rachel: What's on your mind?

Phil: I think I should quit my job because my mother just had another heart attack and as you know she can't work anymore she is too old so I want to find a job with a good healthcare deal. I can't afford all her medication with my job now its to hard and I need to provide for my immediate family too, what if one of you have an accident what then?

Rachel: I'm not sure what would happen, but i'll tell you this that whatever you choose I will support you. Now take Celia to school before she is late.

Celia: (Shouts from the other room and enters the kitchen) I'm ready!

(Both Celia and Phil leave the house)

(In the car on the way to school)

Celia: (Worried) Daddy, are you getting fired, is grandma sick again!?

Phil: Everything will be fine just dont worry about it. Just have fun at school.

Celia: (As Celia gets out of the car) okay, i'll try. I love you daddy.

Phil: Love you too now hurry and run before your late.

(Phil leaves the school parking lot and make his way to his office in the middle of town, the scene then closes)

Chorus:

(as Phil's conscious)

Your family is starting to worry  
Let them know that things will be okay  
Even if they won't be  
Keep your family for worrying  
Even if it means lying to them  
Keep things under control  
Thats all that matters now  
Try and stay happy

## Scene 2

(When Philip gets to work)

Phil: Oh, I don't know what to do boys should I quit to find a job with some good health care?

Parolee: The way I look at it is if you wanted it do it just, you might want to find a job before you quit this one. Health care bankrupts hundreds of thousands of people annually and will even kill them sometimes. In a case like yours, it's crucial that you find the money to take care of you mother.

Philip: You know I was reading this article "The most efficient healthcare systems In the world" and it was talking about how we have one of the worst health care systems in the world and we spend the second most on it in the whole world.

Parolee: Wow, well then you probably should get a new job then.

Phil: Yeah it also said that If you apply for health insurance you can get denied for really stupid thing like ADHD or even just like acne.

Parolee: Now remember if you get health care at your next job, if you get a new job you get really good deals like my friends wife was pregnant and when the baby came it was only five dollars because his health insurance covered a majority of it.

Phil: Oh well thats good, I did not know that.

Parolee: Think of it this way. Do you enjoy your job? Do you really deserve this kind of pay and with no health insurance benefits? As opposed to a worker at Home Depot? Now you are probably telling yourself "yes, I am doing just on money and I will help my mom out with her medication" but some thing else is telling you different, something is saying "you need more money" and you are believing that. I'm not the one to talk obviously but you need to start scraping together more money or find a new job if you want to keep your mother around for longer.

Phil: I'm going to tell myself that you are wrong, and you're just a stupid thief.

Parolee: Yea? And you think your mother will be okay huh? Saying your mom will be fine is like saying OJ loved Nicole. Your mother needs help, and you are oblivious to it. You may be able to pay for her medication but what happens when you can't pay for food? Or you run out of gas?

Phil: I don't care about your beat down on myself and family! At this point we're doing better than

you. Now you best shut up or i'll accidently find something illegal on you and put you in jail.

Parolee: Why don't you do it then? Health insurance is free in there. As opposed to someone like you who has to pay 700 dollars a month, or whatever the big number is. It's funny how we use fear to help you through a crisis isn't it? You would think that we would be supportive in a situation like this. Why would we be caring and compassionate, all you're doing by waiting for more money to come in is digging a deeper hole for yourself and your family. Let me tell you one thing, the longer you sit around and put off all the health insurance stuff, is making your mom sicker every minute. You may be able to pay for her medication and insurance, but what happens when Celia needs money for herself? Then Mama Nicks is in trouble. Phil listen, go home and look for low paying jobs that provides health insurance, I'm going to be silent until you come back tomorrow with three possible jobs.

Boss: Phil please come in my office you have a phone call.

Phil: Yes sir i'll be right there.

Boss: It's the hospital they need to talk to you about you mom

Phil: Hello? Is everything okay!?

Doctor: Well Philipp your mom had another stroke, we are going to need to put her in a assisted living home where professionals can look after her or I'm not sure how much longer you will have her.

Phil: No! She is perfectly fine living with me! Thank you very much but I have things completely under control. I will not send her off to a home where I won't be able to afford plus she deserves more than eating oatmeal for dinner every night for the rest of her lonely life.

Doctor: Look sir I understand what you're going through but we need to do something or I don't know what will happen.

Phil: I have everything under control! (slamming the phone back on its dock)  
(Phil's day carries on as any other an the scene closes)

**Chorus:**

(as Phil's conscious)

Things are getting serious  
You may want to look into a new job  
That way you don't devote too much money on health care  
But why take advice from a felon

He don't know anything  
Why would he want to help you  
There isn't an escape from it  
America's health care will always be a problem

### Scene 3

(5 weeks later before phil returns home after a long day at his new job with health care he first goes to the local pharmacy to pick up his moms medication, when he get home he sees an ambulance outside his home, Phil's stomach drops and tears come to his eyes as he rushes to the back of the ambulance, paramedics inform him that his mother has as had her third stroke, he fears the worst and his tears flow like rivers)

Doctor:(outside driveway) I'm sorry Sir but she is...dead (as he hangs his head in sorrow)

Philip: But...but...this can't happen to me...not now...not as soon as I

Phil:(at home talking to his wife) It makes no sense I have been a perfectly good guy I mean I got a job with health care I can afford moms meds now. Wasn't she suppose to be getting better?

Rachel: It doesn't just happen like that, Phil. Health care does this to thousands of people each year.

Phil: You don't understand do you! I devoted so much time and money into her and she just..... dies.

Rachel: Im sorry.

Phil: I know it's just I loved her, she never left me as a kid unlike my deadbeat dad who left me at 12 years old mom didn't even have a job at that time but she was always there when I needed something and I promised her when I was a little boy that I would take care of her when she is old and I would never leave her side and i would buy her a house and I just didn't want to give up on her yet. (Tears roll to his eyes as he tries to hold back from crying of the thought of is mom not being for there for him any longer.)

Chorus:

(as Phil's conscious)

Everything will be okay Phil  
You did all you could and thats all that matters  
She is in a better...happier place now its okay  
Just know she loves you

People will look to you as a hero  
You invested time and money into your mom  
Just as she did to you as a child  
There's no need to worry