Rather than reduce benefits, my company (over 19+ years of service) is FORCING me and my family to go without medical / hospital coverage using a series of calculated and carefully orchestrated methods of "purging my family" from the workplace (NOT for cause) and thus our insurance (medical & dental for which we have paid for over 20 years under group rates).

Instead of changing the GROUP policy, I was place on a 'leave of absence.' with an expiry date of October 2010. At that time, we are eligible for COBRA......but if we accept this, then we can NOT pay our other obligations.

This is a tactic that Gulf Power / Southern Company has used to get rid of baby boomers, without just cause, because they are self insured. Statistically, older employees are likely to need increasing medical care; and Rx as a doctor prescribes.

The make up of the employee based for the investor owned utility (electricity) company does NOT reflect the demographics of the population that they serve with electricity.

There is no relief, as the power company has deep pockets but short arms.

NINE attorneys in our area would NOT accept an ADA or suit filing; because the power company is a maker of rules that they choose, through effective lobbying and PAC contributions.

We are ONE phone call away from bankruptcy, should my wife require ANY type of surgery.

Because the power company is 'self' insured, it is blantently obvious what has occured.

It is a losing battle, with no assistance from government / judicial system as employers have the laws all written to benefit them...and never an individual. It sucks.

What can DOL, or other agency / department do to help us keep some form of afforable insurance? We will NOT make it until 2014 with no medical care.

My wife and I cry daily, and are wrought with anxiety in the worst economy since the great depression.

Respectfully submitted.......busyinthefield@yahoo.com