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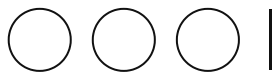
**NEWS**

# Blumenthal calls for reversal of Trump-era rule cutting disability benefits



**Vincent Gabrielle**

Updated: Sep. 2, 2022 2:54 p.m.



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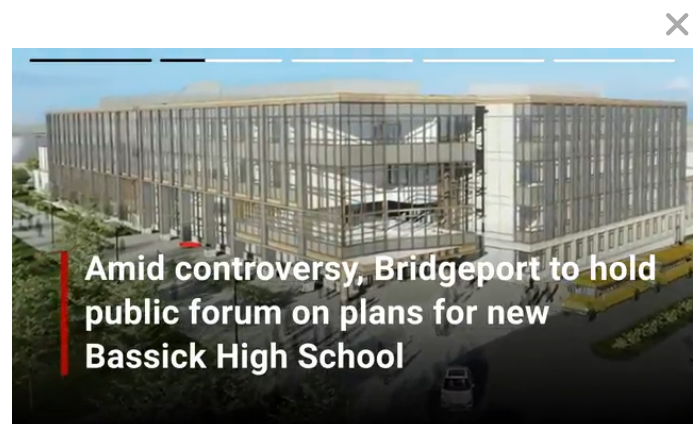
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Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal talks with disability rights advocates Nick Glomb and Sheldon Toubman at the Capitol building in Hartford on September 1, 2022. Blumenthal called on the Department of Health and Human Services to reverse a Trump era-rule that had resulted in thousands of people statewide losing Medicaid coverage.

Vincent Gabrielle

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal has called on the Department of Health and Human Services to reverse a Trump-era rule that cut over 6,000 disabled Connecticut residents off from Medicaid benefits this year.

“It might sound like an arcane and difficult legal issue but as a matter of humanity it’s pretty straightforward: do the right thing.” said Senator Blumenthal on the south lawn of the Capitol building Thursday morning. “The president of the United States can undo Donald Trump’s harm to people with disabilities by the stroke of a pen.”



Two disabled Connecticut women sued the Department of Health and Human Services for cutting their Medicaid benefits based on a rule minted in the final hours of the Trump administration.

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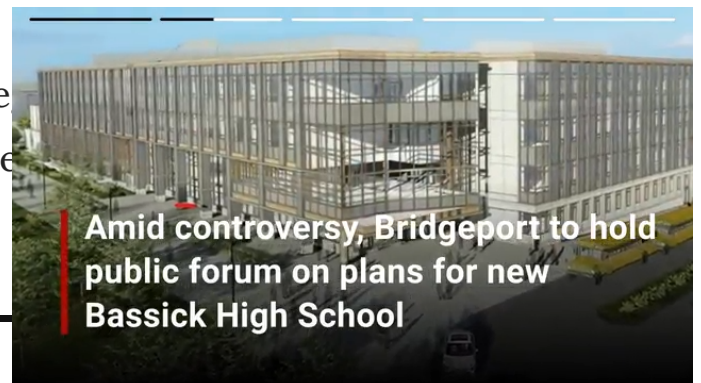
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seeking class-action status so that they can re  
country who were cut from Medicaid.

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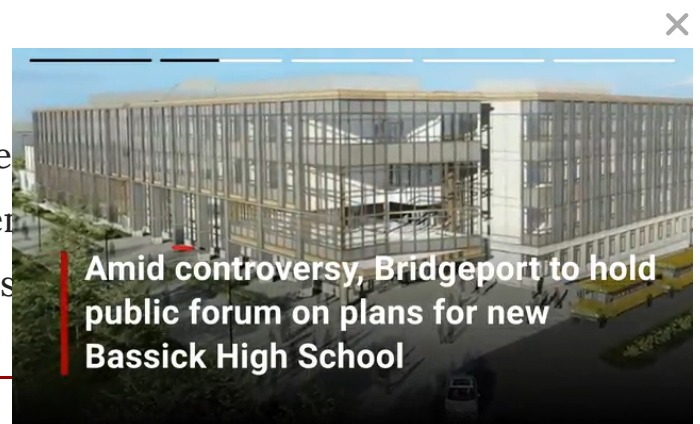
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“This is a national problem,” said Sheldon Toubman, the lead attorney on the suit. He said he had heard from disabled people in Nebraska and Delaware that they had lost their benefits under the rule change. “We filed for certification of a nationwide class for everybody who was affected by the same Trump rule. We estimate to be several hundred thousand people.”

Their legal advocates say that the rule change was part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Response Act which mandated that people receive their benefits during the COVID-19 public health emergency, which is set to expire.



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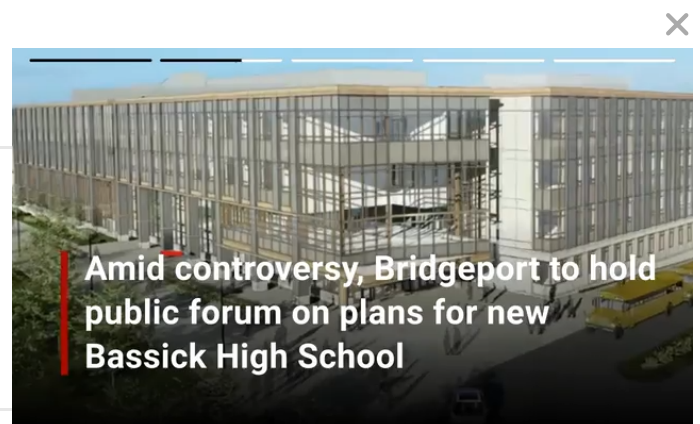
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A hearing is scheduled later in the month where a judge will decide whether or not to halt the enforcement of the Trump-era rule.

Blumenthal said hopes that the Department of Health and Human Services renders the whole question moot by tossing it out entirely. He has asked them to respond to him by September 9.

“They could say, you’re right. Trump blew it,” said Senator Blumenthal. “They could just say, okay we’ll reinstate your benefits.”



Written By  
**Vincent Gabrielle**

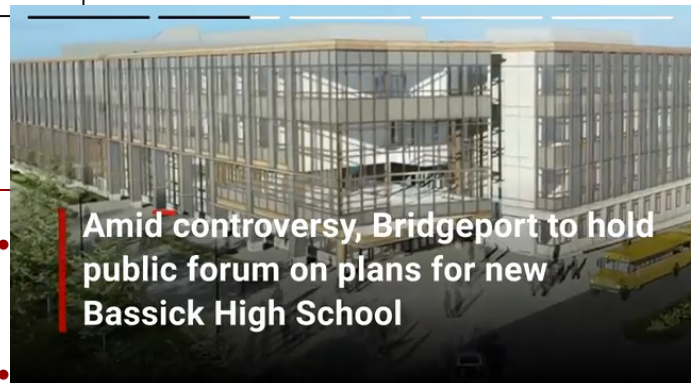
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Vincent Gabrielle is a reporter with Hearst Connecticut Media Group. He is an award-winning science journalist who has covered COVID-19, Manhattan Project legacy waste disposal, cryptocurrency miners and mountain snorkelers. Raised in western Massachusetts, he's lived all over the country and worn a lot of unusual hats. You can find him on weekends looking for horseshoe crabs near New Haven.

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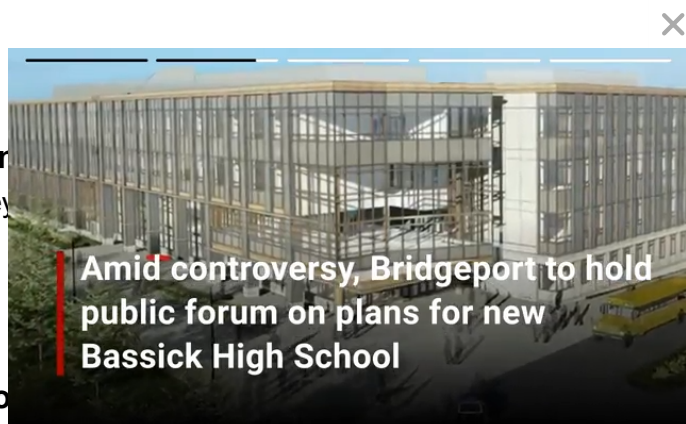
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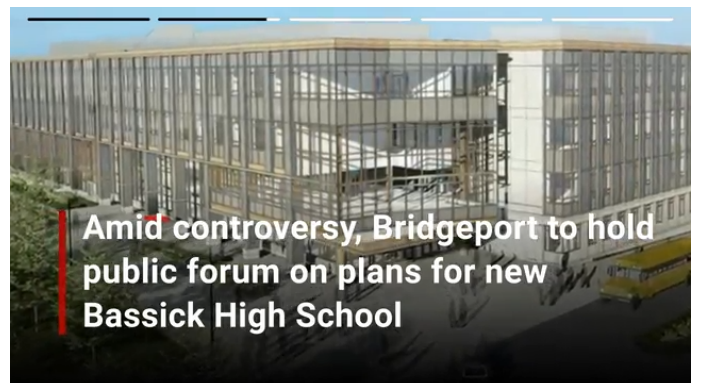
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