



FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Sample "Letter to Legislator/Media" #1

I am writing because my family's way of life may soon come under real threat. Speculation about cuts to Medicaid circulated in the media incite my fear that funding cutbacks might force my adult child, who has a developmental disability, to lose the supports and services that help to live a meaningful life.

This reduction would destroy independence and my family's financial security.

More than 1.7 million New Jersey residents are enrolled in Medicaid. Most are children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. That number represents 25 percent of the state's population. In New Jersey, 200,000 people with disabilities depend on Medicaid for long term services. The program guarantees round-the-clock supports for my who lives Each day,

lives a life worthy of the smart, motivated and caring person is. But that could change. If Medicaid were gutted, would likely need to return home. My partner and I would need to cut our work hours. Like many other families, we and our child could face the real possibility of bankruptcy or homelessness. Very costly and inadequate institutional care would skyrocket.

Our representatives in Congress must not cut Medicaid for people with disabilities and other lifelong needs. Please do not turn your backs on people with disabilities. We believe in everyone's right to the pursuit of happiness and our courts have supported people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities over the last fifty years.