

## Cutting Medicaid Funding Hurts Disabled Members of Our Community

To the editor:

Across the [city/town] community, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) rely on an array of support services to live, work and thrive here.

Nationally, 69% of the community providers that deliver these services are turning away new referrals while 39% are discontinuing existing services because they lack the funding needed to recruit and retain qualified workers. This puts access to services in jeopardy at a time when nearly 512,000 disabled Americans are languishing on their states' waiting lists.

Now, another crisis looms. Community-based services are almost exclusively funded by Medicaid, and in Congress, the House recently approved a budget resolution directing the committee that oversees Medicaid to slash \$880 billion in spending. Such a drastic cut will all but dismantle the federal Medicaid program, leaving hundreds of thousands more Americans without the services they need.

As a [person with I/DD / provider of these services / family member of someone with I/DD], I know firsthand that the [city/town] community is better when it includes everyone—regardless of their disability. If Senators [Name] and [Name] and Representative [Name] agree that our community is stronger when it includes people with disabilities, then they must reject any proposals to cut funding for the federal Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

[First & Last Name]

[City, State]