

June 29, 2011



Dear Senator Warner,

As you will be able to tell from the picture above I am not a young spring chicken, but I am actively caring for my house, my yard and my son. Why would I be caring for and have my 55 year old son living with me? He was born with intellectual disability has seizures and was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

Up until July 2010 he worked as a materials handler at a lumber yard. Fortunately he had Medicaid insurance to cover his doctors and his medicine. I drove him to work. Due to the economy last year he and other employees were let go. Fortunately he recently obtained a part-time job with transportation provided. Just in time because I am now unable to drive because my arm is in a sling for six weeks due to a fall I had.

Medicaid is very important for my son's well-being and will be in the future. Medicaid is what pays for residential and other services that my son will likely one need one day. He is on the Intellectual Disability Waiting List that has over 5,000 on its waiting list.

I am sending this letter to request that you NOT reduce spending on Medicaid for people with disabilities. Please do not impose block grants or spending caps. I ask this not only for my son but many others like him who depend on Medicaid for their health and maintenance in the community. Medicaid not only provides vital assistance and services for people with disabilities but it makes it possible for parents to work, pay taxes as contributing members of society. Before I forget, my son paid taxes for over 25 years while he was employed.

If you cut Medicaid what alternatives do you have for people like my son, me and many other Virginians? Will he be left in an institution? To be fiscally responsible, fully fund Medicaid so that people with disabilities can live in the community at a lower cost and not in costly institutions. I trust that you will not only act fiscally responsible but morally responsible also so that people who deserve help are helped.

It is all about priorities. Your actions will tell me what the priorities are. I hope that we have the same priorities. Thank you for considering my views and requests.

Sincerely,

Garnett A. Christoph
Glen Allen, VA

June 28, 2011

Dear Senator Warner,

I worked two jobs for many years to support myself. When I was real little my real mother kept hitting my head against the wall and that caused me to have seizures. When my seizures got so bad I had to stop working two jobs and now I am completely retired. I am 54 years old.

I have Medicaid. It pays for my doctor visits and for my prescriptions. It is very important that I have my medicine to help control my seizures. Now I have to wear a helmet because my seizures are so bad that I hit my head and face and get hurt.



Please do not cut Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. I really need to see my doctors and to have Medicaid pay for my medicine.

I can't live safely without it. I do not want to have to go live in a nursing home or some institution somewhere away from my family. I want to stay as independent as I can and I don't want to live in a group home either.

Sincerely,

Susan Holley
Ashland, Virginia

Dear Senator Warner,

PLEASE DON'T CUT OUR LIFELINE

Medicaid is my daughter's Lisa's lifeline in addition to her pacemaker. In many ways it is our whole family's lifeline. Lisa was born with Down Syndrome, has a pacemaker, had a stroke and has Crohn's Disease.



Over the years it has been extremely hard on our family both physically, mentally and emotionally. At one time I had to give up my career in order to care of her due to her many hospitalizations and care needs. Several years ago Lisa received Medicaid and the Medicaid Intellectual Disability/ID Waiver – that is her lifeline and our family's lifeline. Now in her 20s, she has caregivers who ensure involvement in the community, keep her as physically active as she can be so that she has A Life Like Yours – living in the community, volunteer activities and friends. The Medicaid health insurance covers doctor's appointments and medications. Because of the ID Waiver I have been able to return to work as a school instructional aide. Our family has peace of mind knowing that Lisa lives in our home, has caregivers and we have the time we need to work and take care of our own health needs.

If Medicaid is cut by the federal government what will be available to Lisa and many others with her? Block granting and spending caps will be devastating. To put Medicaid in the hands of each state as is proposed will leave us with no assurances of minimal requirements. Already Virginia is near last in support of Medicaid for people with disabilities.

What will happen to Lisa and many others when we are no longer able to provide a home if Medicaid services are reduced?

Please do not cut Medicaid funding. It is plain and simple. I stand ready to help you in anyway possible to ensure that you are able to act in a moral and fiscally responsible way by making people who need help a priority. I hope that I can write a letter to you in August thanking you for your actions to NOT cut Medicaid and for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Cathy Wilson

Cathy Wilson
Ashland, VA
June 29, 2011