



Why Does Medicaid Matter?

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Medicaid services are very important to me and pretty much everyone I know and my family because it's like people with I/DD survive off of them and they need those services because it helps and plus we also have providers, which that is their job. And it is that we want to support them as well as them supporting us with our Medicaid services.

Learn more about *Why Medicaid Matters* at informingfamilies.org/medicaid-information.

The Medicaid Matters: Share Your Story project is in collaboration with:





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Medicaid provides additional health insurance for my son so he can access therapies. Medicaid also provides personal care hours because my son has care needs that are more than the typical child his age. When he is an adult, Medicaid will help pay for job training and supports for him to be able to be a contributing member of our community.

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Caregivers take me places instead of taking Paratransit. Housing is important to me because I cannot afford it on my own. My medications are impossible for me to pay out of pocket so I need Medicaid in order to survive.

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Hi, my name is Sharon, I live in Legislative District 38. I feel that for people like myself, that you shouldn't cut the Medicaid benefits because if you were to cut them then I wouldn't be able to see my doctor and I have multiple health issues such as diabetes Type 2, chronic pain, and mental health issues and if I didn't have housing I wouldn't be able to keep my apartment and I would become homeless. Thank you for taking time to read my concerns.

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Medicaid provides disability services to my daughter who experiences a developmental disability. This includes additional health insurance that provides her with speech therapy and vital medical treatments. Additionally, Medicaid pay for a caregiver for a few hours a month to support her and my family with her personal care needs (that are much, much greater than the average 5 year old).

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This beautiful human is why the federal government must keep its hands off Medicaid! Braxton has an intellectual disability with significant health issues. Braxton takes numerous medications and uses oxygen due to low oxygen saturation. Braxton needs an adult stroller to navigate medical appointments and his community. None of these things could be possible financially without Medicaid.

Since birth, Braxton has relied on Medicaid, State, and Federal funding to support his fundamental needs. Due to his high level of care needs, he has also resided in a residential program in the State of Washington since he was 10 years old. He is now 20 years old, and his needs are increasing as he moves into adulthood.

Please hear our story and realize that Medicaid contributes to my son's life daily!

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I am a Medicaid recipient and it covers part of my medical needs that are not covered by Medicare.

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Medicaid is very important for my family especially my little brother Gabriel. Gabriel is 19 years old. Gabriel loves movies, stuffed animals (Minnie Mouse), going to the park, traveling with family, and jumping on the trampoline. Gabriel also has Down Syndrome and Autism. He is non-verbal and uses a speaking device to communicate.

Medicaid allows my brother to have housing and resources he deserves. Such as speaking devices, therapy, and programs such as the WISE program that he is currently attending. He also goes to Aim High for ABA therapy. Medicaid also helps with his doctor's appointments.

I'm writing this statement in desperation that the funding is not cut for Medicaid. This directly affects my brother and in turn affects me and my family. My brother deserves the best care possible and that is why I am writing to you. I hope you take into consideration Gabriel's story when making your decisions.

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“ We rely Raechel’s medical supplies, medications and Aides to take care of her. Having to pay for those would be impossible for my family. She needs her medications and specialized formula with enteral supplies in order to live.

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“ Medicaid is how I survive doctor’s appointments and stuff, is having that with insurance.

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The picture you see is my daughter sitting in a van watching kites being flown on a beautiful beach along the Salish Coast.

My daughter is highly impacted by autism, is nonverbal and has high behavior support needs. She lives in a supported-living home with 3 roommates who also have disabilities qualifies for 24-hour, 7 days a week care authorized through the Developmental Disabilities Administration funded by federal Medicaid and an equal match of State-funded Medicaid to pay her care workers to support her to live in her community. Cutting Medicaid will cause job loss and poverty to her amazing care workers. Cutting Medicaid will be life-threatening to my daughter. My story is about 1 house in one town in one county in one state. This scenario will be repeated by the millions in each town, each county, in each state.

DO NOT CUT THE MEDICAID LIFE-LINE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

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