



Why Does Medicaid Matter?

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From the time of his birth 25 years ago our son, Sasha, who has Prader-Willi Syndrome (a rare genetic disorder) and Autism and I/DD has been helped tremendously by services covered through Medicaid. From those first scary weeks in the Nicu until this day, he has received medical care, countless therapies, personal care (caregiving) and respite hours through DDA that have made the difference between a life of wellbeing vs a life I shudder to think about.

Our own lives as his parents and main caregivers would have become bleak without this support and as such our contribution as therapists to our community and city, both civilly and financially, would be greatly diminished. He requires full time care and supervision and as we look toward his future without us at some point, he will heavily depend on the CORE waiver he has through DDA funded by Medicaid to house him and keep him cared for and just out of poverty in a place like Seattle.

I can only imagine the pressures you face in deciding on how to deal with the budget shortfall Washington has while also shouldering the the impact of our federal government abandoning it's fair investment. We know we don't represent the only vulnerable population in our state, but it is an especially vulnerable one. While my son has many support needs he also contributes, with help, to his community through his small volunteer job at the University Food Bank. He brings joy to so many who encounter him and it is our deepest wish that he and so many others like him get to feel embraced by the community. The world can be so confusing and scary to an unsupported person with an intellectual developmental disability. We can't allow that to be the world we and they live in by allowing significant cuts to Medicaid.

Please do all you can to avoid that scenario and thank you for the very hard work you do!

- Julie, Sasha's mother | *Legislative District 43, Congressional District 7*

Learn more about Why Medicaid Matters at informingfamilies.org/medicaid-information.
The Medicaid Matters: Share Your Story project is in collaboration with:

