

Dear Editor:

As a family member of a person with developmental disabilities, I am deeply concerned with proposals in Washington to slash Medicaid by billions of dollars. I watch the news channels in disbelief, as many of our elected leaders don't seem to fully understand what they are proposing or supporting.

My family, like many, many others across America, is hard-working, honest and committed to doing all we can to help one another and our neighbors. We also need to rely on Medicaid to ensure that our loved ones get the care they need to be productive, active members of our society.

Medicaid makes it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live independently, to get specialized care, to work, to have social interaction and to give family members the respite we need.

Medicaid is engrained in America. It is one of the reasons why this is a great country that proudly takes care of its own. As Congress continues to debate the future of Medicaid this summer, I ask that it take the time to see Medicaid as a critical life-saver, not a line item that can be easily erased from the federal budget without consequence.