

Dear Editor,

I am writing because my family's way of life is under threat. The proposed cuts to Medicaid could force my adult child, who has a developmental disability, to lose the supports and services that help guarantee a meaningful life. This reduction could destroy my kid's independence and my family's financial security.

More than 47 million people on Medicaid are children, senior citizens and people with disabilities. That number represents 64 percent of Medicaid's total enrollee base. In our state alone, 352,000 people with disabilities depend on Medicaid.

The program guarantees critical supports for my adult child, who follows a personalized schedule. My child cooks, cleans, exercises, works, receives medical care, attends parties and plays games. My child lives a life worthy of any smart, motivated and caring person.

But that could change. If Medicaid were gutted, my adult child's quality of life would suffer. My partner and I would need to cut our work hours. Like many other families, we could face the real possibility of bankruptcy.

We must tell our representatives in Congress that we will not cut Medicaid. We will not turn our backs on people with disabilities. We believe in everyone's right to the pursuit of happiness.