

Letter to the Editor
Raquel Rosa
Special Projects Manager, TASH

Dear Editor:

My brother is a lifelong Orioles fan, frequents the Lyric Opera House, is an active congregant at his church in Catonsville, & enjoys his job in Randallstown. He also happens to have a significant disability; as do dozens of people I've worked with throughout my career in disability justice & supports. To say I am deeply concerned about the proposed Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) & cuts & caps to Medicaid is an understatement. People with disabilities, their families, & the people who are paid to provide supports to them WILL be hurt the worst.

Medicaid helps my brother & other people with disabilities receive the supports they NEED to work, thrive, & participate in their communities. If the BCRA is enacted, my brother & other people with significant disabilities will not get the services they need to be healthy, successful, & live as independently as possible. People who don't have families, & those whose families cannot afford privately funded care, will be at a high risk of being sent to nursing homes or, worse yet, state-run institutions, where the freedoms they currently enjoy in their communities — the same ones you & I enjoy — will be taken away from them. Furthermore, unemployment & underemployment of people whose careers have been rooted in providing Medicaid-funded supports will skyrocket.

Contrary to proponents of the BCRA, people with disabilities WANT to be a part of the community, work, & pay taxes — JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. President Trump has said on multiple occasions that he works for all Americans. I want to remind him that people with disabilities, their families, & the people who provide paid supports to them ARE ALSO AMERICAN, & ought not be overlooked or disregarded.

The BCRA & proposed cuts & caps of Medicaid will be catastrophic to our country, put people's lives at risk, & result in a major economic downfall that could take generations to fix. America prides itself as a benevolent, egalitarian society — it's time to make this a reality, ensuring a good life for ALL Americans.

Sincerely,
Raquel Rosa