



# CHANGING THE HEALTHCARE LAWS

With all the finger pointing and accusations of fake information, it has become increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens to discern what is right and what is right and what is wrong, let alone understand all sides of the healthcare debate. It is, beyond any doubt, a complicated issue, but there are some things that are achingly clear in who could get hurt if change is rushed and all the impacts of new legislation are not considered.

People with disabilities, whether intellectual, developmental, or caused by accident or injury, are going to feel the brunt of any major cuts to healthcare funding. Medicaid is the safety net for millions of people across the country who, by fate or circumstances, find themselves in need of assistance. It was created for just that purpose—to support vulnerable people to get services to help them live better lives—and in many cases just to let them live. These are children and adults, men and women, of all variety of abilities and capacities who contribute to our American culture in their own way.

Caring for the ill and the elderly, and persons with disabilities are compassionate acts of a civilized society. Helping our neighbors and those less fortunate than we are is ingrained in our national heritage. Americans have stood up for the downtrodden and the vulnerable for decades, and that should not change now, whether due to financial constraints or warring ideologies. We have always found a way to come together and solve some of the most pressing issues we have ever faced. Healthcare funding is one of the most serious.

It is with that spirit, regardless of your political affiliation or your personal philosophy, that I ask all who read this and all who care about their fellow citizens with disabilities of any kind—remember those who truly need our help. Each of us should urge those in power to not damage or short-change the systems that protect and support so many of our fellow citizens.