The United States Senate is moving rapidly towards a plan to cut and cap the Medicaid program which will be devastating to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Over {insert # of state ppl with disabilities on Medicaid- macpac.gov p. 1} with disabilities receive Medicaid including {insert # of ppl using HCBS in state-stateofthestates.org p.3} with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) who rely on Medicaid for home and community based supports. {Insert State} receives over {insert federal funding amount-stateofthestates.org p.1} in federal funds to provide supports and services that individuals with I/DD use to live in the community.

Over the last two decades funding for home and community based services has grown because of widespread bipartisan support. These services have had bipartisan support as disability knows no political, or geographical, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. They provide dignity to people with I/DD through assistance with meals, bathing and dressing, toileting, in-home skilled nursing, and communication support, to name but a few.

The Senate is considering the same $830 billion dollar cut to the Medicaid program as passed the House. We fear that because home and community based services are “optional” services, states will cut them first if confronted with this greatly reduced federal commitment. States may return to outdated modes of serving people with disabilities, congregating large numbers of individuals in facilities with inadequate staffing and no real-life opportunities. The per capita cap proposal will pave a path backwards to institutional care and segregated services.

We must call on our Senators to protect Medicaid and to continue the 52 year commitment to providing healthcare and long term services and supports to persons with disabilities.