

**NCIL Annual Conference 2010
Capitol Hill Visit
By James Rapp
July 21, 2010**

Maintenance of Effort for State Medicaid Programs

Hello, my name is James Rapp from the disAbility Resource Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia. I am very concerned about the Maintenance of Effort .for State Medicaid Programs.

The United States Senate did not pass the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage extension earlier this summer, which forced cuts to home and community based services in Virginia. On July 1st of this year, my personal attendants had their salaries reduced by five percent.. Other Medicaid cuts that affect the ability of people with disabilities to live in their community include assistive technology, healthcare coverage, and respite care. If Medicaid programs for people with disabilities aren't supported, I will not be able to live independently in the community nor will others with disabilities. We do not belong in institutions, which is our alternative and which also costs more than community support, but we belong in our community.

Please support, advocate, and vote for Medicaid community supports for people with disabilities!
Thank you!