

**VA State CIL Lobby Day 2011
VA State General Assembly Visit
By James Rapp
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Maintenance of Medicaid Assistive Technology and Environmental Modification

Hello, my name is James Rapp. I work at the disAbility Resource Center in Fredericksburg.

I understand Medicaid Assistive Technology and Environmental Modifications plan to be reduced by 2012 according to the Virginia State Budget Plan. This greatly concerns me because I have a communication device. Having a communication device is an essential part of my life because without it I can't communicate with other people. My device is currently being repaired. I would have a hard time either buying or repairing my communication device if Medicaid Assistive Technology services are reduced. I also need Environmental Modification Services so I can live independently in my apartment. Before I moved to Spotsylvania County, I had an automatic door which helped me get into my previous apartment. The cost of my assistive technology and home modifications is much less than the cost of institutional care and these two services provide me the opportunity to work and pay taxes which gives back to the community.

Please do not cut funding for Medicaid Assistive Technology and Environmental Modifications. They are necessary for people with disabilities to remain independent. Thank you!