

## **The Unkindest Cut of All**

At a time when the federal government is shoveling out money by the boatload to special interests and some pretty useless endeavors, that same government has seen fit to chop off the funding for our deaf-blind son, Sean. With only a few weeks' notice.

It has taken years to secure some sort of structured life for Sean in which he can get the exercise he needs in order to sleep at night. It has taken years to get his seizures under control to the point where we do not have to take him to the Emergency Room every few weeks.

And it has taken years to find the right care-giver, who really does enjoy Sean's company, to interact with Sean and his environment in a way which provides Sean with a meaningful quality of life.

The way the government is capping the funding of Sean and hundreds of other developmentally disabled people in this state of Colorado on July First, is despicable. The government is doing this because it CAN. And because the people doing this have lost sight of the fact that they answer to the people. While money by the millions is being thrown at unneeded causes, the government ruthlessly takes away the services of a population that cannot speak for itself. It doesn't get lower than that.

The federal Medicaid Services and the state Division of Developmental Disabilities are entrusted to protect those who can't speak up for themselves. But no. The people who need the most help in their lives are being betrayed by the very part of government created to help them. Funding is being cut to these people who depend on it day to day. It's not a matter of having a tighter budget, it is a matter of survival for people who depend on others for the most basic care. Yet the government would cut the services of these people while supposedly protecting them?! What strikes me as most despicable is that this deceit is being perpetrated against the one segment of the population that knows and exhibits only honesty.

Nancy,  
June 17, 2009