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## **Writer wonders how cutting support for mentally ill can save Medicaid**

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Dear Editor:

I have been an advocate for the mentally ill for many, many years. Top officials know me as an honest person who voices very strongly for the rights of mentally ill patients.

I strongly disagree with Alabama Medicaid's proposal to cut brand-name antipsychotic medications on the state Medicaid prescriptions list, which could cause a major disaster.

This action is so wrong. Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, a past keynote speaker for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and a world-known psychiatrist, brain researcher and author of many books on serious mental illness, has stated many times that it is so hard to find medications to stabilize psychotic mental patient so they can remain coherent.

Why? Because each psychotic mental patient's body's chemistry is different. That is why when these antipsychotic drugs are given, so many times it is through trial actions until hopefully a psychotic patient finally will respond to a drug that the psychiatrist has finally found that will work.

This is why it is so important, once a medication is found, to stabilize mental patients, then leave them alone, do not change these medications.

How is it saving Alabama Medicaid monies if they change these antipsychotic medications and these medications don't work? Psychotic mental patients will not know to go to a local doctor. Usually the police have to intervene and take them to jail. If by chance they go to the emergency room, it's a tremendous hospital bill, or if a mental patient has too many psychotic breaks, they do not return to reality.'

So, how does this save money for Alabama Medicaid?

Sincerely,

Jerry Delk

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