



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

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I was troubled by an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [*After Missouri Cuts Funding for the Disabled, Some Fear They May be Forced into Nursing Homes*](#) (August 16, 2018) that details cuts made by the Missouri Legislature to a program which provides in-home personal care to low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

These cuts jeopardize the safety and independence of our neighbors, which many of us surely find objectionable.

Representative Scott Fitzpatrick, chairman of the House Budget Committee, indicated the reluctance even of lawmakers to make these cuts, saying "we were cutting drastically everywhere else before we came to these services".

What he did not say was that for years Missouri has been implementing significant tax cuts, even this past legislative session cutting the corporate income tax rate by 36% and the top rate of the individual income tax, as well.

Of course, we all like a tax cut. But at what price? Are we willing to pay for tax cuts by depriving our most vulnerable neighbors of truly necessary services? Is this what we stand for as a state?

Nonprofit organizations do great work to help those in need, but we can only do so much. It takes a public/private partnership to look out for fellow Missourians in need.

Theresa Ruzicka
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