

A recent story in the newspaper mentioned concerns about reductions in the health and human services budget for 2007. Nearly all of the reductions – things like the 211 line and some prevention programs – are driven by cuts in funding from the state and federal government.

It is also important to remember that County Executive Walker included a bold initiative – with additional funding - to provide quality house for people with mental illness. Also, there are new positions to monitor the 825 child care centers in the county, support for the General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP) that provides health care coverage for the poor and additional help for people with disabilities.

The County Executive's budget also fully funds the EMS system. This guarantees that everyone in the county will have access to the award winning paramedic system.

Despite the tremendous financial challenges facing the county, the 2007 budget puts a priority on providing care and support to those in need in our community.