

May 12, 2003

NGA Medicaid Reform Task Force
National Governors Association
Hall of States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20001-1512

Dear Governors:

The undersigned organizations urge you, as members of the National Governors Association Medicaid Reform Task Force, to protect and strengthen the Medicaid program when considering reform proposals.

The Medicaid program plays an essential role in providing health insurance and long-term care to your state's most vulnerable seniors, children, women of child-bearing age, working parents and people with disabilities. Medicaid provides vital screening, preventive services, and treatments for children and women of child-bearing age; assistive technology and durable medical equipment that people with disabilities need; and the crucial prescription drug coverage, long-term care and community based services that seniors and people with disabilities of all ages rely upon.

We look forward to working with you to maintain your state's commitment to the people who rely on the Medicaid program for health coverage and essential long-term care. **To that end, we urge you to reject any proposal that would cap federal funding for all or any part of the program.** Such capped funding would undoubtedly result in reduced funding of Medicaid, especially in times of greatest need. We also look forward to working with you so that Medicaid continues to provide reliable, affordable, and high-quality services to everyone who depends on the program.

Sincerely,

ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Advancing Independence: Modernizing Medicare and Medicaid
AFL-CIO
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alzheimer's Association
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of University Women
American Association on Health and Disability

American Association on Mental Retardation
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Congress of Community Support & Employment Services
American Council of the Blind
American Counseling Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Geriatrics Society
American Health Care Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association for Persons in Supported Employment
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Tech Act Projects
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Disability Issues & the Health Professions
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Communications Workers of America
Community Health Care Association of the Dakotas
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Connecticut Primary Care Association
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (Prevention Task Force)
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Health Task Force
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals

Covering Kentucky Kids & Families Coalition
Disability Service Providers of America
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Families USA
Family Voices
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Florida Council of Behavioral Healthcare
Helen Keller National Center
HIV Medicine Association
Idaho Primary Care Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care
International Union, UAW
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Medicare Rights Center
Mental Health Resources, Inc.
MultiCare Health System
NAACP
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Home Care and Hospice
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils
National Association of Hispanic Elderly
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness
National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare
National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Council on Independent Living
National Council on the Aging
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program

National Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
National Mental Health Association
National Partnership for Women and Families
National PTA
National Renal Administrators Association
National Respite Coalition
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
NISH
OWL, the voice of midlife and older women
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute
Parents for Behaviorally Different Children
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
Renal Leadership Council
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
ReVisions Behavioral Health Systems
School Social Work Association of America
Service Employees International Union
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Medicine
Spina Bifida Association of America
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
The Arc of the United States
Title II Community AIDS National Network
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
United Cerebral Palsy
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United Jewish Communities
USAction
Voice of the Retarded
Voices for America's Children
Voters for Choice Action Fund
Women of Reform Judaism
World Institute on Disability