

July 18,2005

Dear Senator:

The undersigned national organizations are deeply concerned about the future of the Medicaid program. As organizations representing various Medicaid stakeholders, we look forward to working with the Senate Finance Committee to strengthen and improve Medicaid for the 53 million vulnerable children, seniors, people with disabilities, and working families who rely on the program for their health care needs.

We are aware that the Budget Resolution requires the Senate Finance Committee to identify \$10 billion in budget cuts over the next five years as part of reconciliation legislation. We would like to note, however, that there is no requirement in the Budget Resolution that all of the \$10 billion in cuts be taken from Medicaid. A significant portion of the cuts can, and should, be taken from programs that are not targeted toward low-income Americans.

Furthermore, we strongly urge that, as you work on the reconciliation bill, no structural changes be made to the Medicaid program. Therefore, we ask that the following *not* be included in the reconciliation bill:

- It is critical that federal standards on cost sharing and benefits be maintained. The reconciliation bill should not include increases in beneficiary cost sharing or a reduction in covered services.
- The reconciliation bill should not alter the guarantee of access to needed health and long-term care services for all those qualified for the program.
- The reconciliation bill should *not* alter the financing arrangements between the federal government and the states that ensures that matching funds be provided without arbitrary caps or block grants.

We believe some improvements to the program can be adopted that would improve Medicaid's cost effectiveness – especially through more economical purchasing of prescription drugs. We look forward to working with you towards that end.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Mental Retardation  
American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services  
American Counseling Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Nurses Association  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Asian& Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Assembly on School Based Health Care  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law  
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
Center on Disability and Health  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Defense Fund  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Catalyst  
Consumers Union  
Disability Service Providers of America  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Families USA  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Guttmacher Institute  
Health and Disability Advocates  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hmong National Development  
Housing Works  
Institute for Reproductive Health Access  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Lutheran Services in America  
Medicare Rights Center

Migrant Legal Action Program  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Health Advocacy Programs  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of La Raza  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
National Medical Association  
National Mental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Puerto Rican Coalition  
National Respite Coalition  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center.  
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
Project Inform  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition (REHDC)  
RESULTS  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
The Arc of the United States  
Treatment Access Expansion Project  
U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Cerebral Palsy

United Jewish Communities  
USAction  
Voice of the Retarded  
Voices for America's Children  
Volunteers of America  
Welfare Law Center