

March 14, 2005

Senator Gordon Smith  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Smith and Bingaman,

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly endorse the Smith-Bingaman amendment to the Senate fiscal year 2006 Budget Resolution, which would strike all Medicaid cuts. The elimination of such cuts is essential for the health care of Medicaid enrollees, the providers who serve them, and state and local units of governments.

We understand that the Senators' amendment will include the creation of a bipartisan commission in lieu of all cuts to consider the future efficient and effective operation of the Medicaid program. Medicaid is the essential source of health access for 53 million of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, and any changes to the program should be driven by policy and not by arbitrary cuts.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for Children and Families

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Association

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association on Mental Retardation

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services (ACCSSES)

American Counseling Association

American Dental Association

American Dental Hygienists' Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Medical Student Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Nurses Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Transplant Surgeons

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Association of Academic Physiatrists

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America

Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Catholic Charities USA  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project)  
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, United Church of Christ  
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals  
Disability Service Providers of America (DSPA)  
Easter Seals  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Generations United  
HIV Medicine Association  
Housing Works Inc.  
Human Rights Campaign  
Institute for Reproductive Health Access  
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Kids Project  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Medicaid Health Plans of America  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US)  
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Council on the Aging  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Head Start Association  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center

National Indian Health Board  
National Mental Health Association  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Puerto Rican Coalition  
National Respite Coalition  
National Women's Law Center  
Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers International Union (PACE)  
Project Inform  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition (REHDC)  
Renal Leadership Council  
RESULTS  
Service Employees International Union  
The AIDS Institute  
The Alan Guttmacher Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
The Children's Partnership  
The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Auto Workers (UAW), International Union  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Jewish Communities  
United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
United Steelworkers of America  
US Conference of Mayors  
USAction  
Voice for Adoption  
Voice of the Retarded  
Voices for America's Children  
Volunteers of America  
Welfare Law Center