

RICK RENZI
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

418 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2315
FAX: (202) 226-9739

FLAGSTAFF OFFICE:
123 NORTH SAN FRANCISCO STREET, SUITE 105
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001
(928) 213-3434
TOLL FREE: (866) 537-2800
FAX: (928) 213-5447

www.house.gov/renzi
rick.renzi@mail.house.gov



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN INTELLIGENCE,
ANALYSIS AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE,
AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH

May XX, 2006

The Honorable Michael Leavitt
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

We are writing to share our significant concerns about a section of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA, P.L. 109-171), specifically, Section 6036. This provision requires Medicaid applicants to produce "satisfactory documentary evidence" of U.S. citizenship or nationality to qualify for benefits. While the statute cites acceptable documents such as a U.S. passport, U.S. Certificate of Naturalization, or Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, it also permits the Secretary to specify, by regulation, other documents that can reliably prove U.S. citizenship. This requirement will be made effective July 1, 2006.

While we agree that a policy needs to be developed to satisfy the DRA requirement, we are also very concerned about people who may be unable to verify citizenship. For example, Native Americans do not generally have paper records of their births. Others, such as many older Americans, do not have birth certificates because they were born at home and their births were never "officially" registered. Under this section of the DRA, these types of individuals, without proper documentation, may be ineligible for Medicaid benefits or terminated from the program.

Any policy developed needs to have maximum flexibility in order to minimize any negative impact on Medicaid beneficiaries and the ability of states and health care providers to enroll patients in the program.

We ask that you include a "grandfather" provision to allow for presumptive eligibility for people who do not have the capabilities to obtain proper identification documents. Some examples include Native American populations, Alzheimer's patients, those who are homeless, mentally impaired, the elderly who never had documentation of their birth, and patients involved in emergency situations who may have lost their identification documents. We have concerns about the policy moving forward narrowly defined, as that could create enrollment barriers for millions of low-income citizens who otherwise meet all Medicaid eligibility requirements. We must avoid an environment where

SHOW LOW OFFICE:
1151 EAST DUECE OF CLUBS
SUITE A
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901
(928) 537-2800
TOLL FREE: (866) 537-2800
FAX: (928) 532-5088

PRESCOTT OFFICE:
107 NORTH CORTEZ
SUITE 208
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 708-9120
FAX: (928) 708-9121

CASA GRANDE OFFICE:
501 N. FLORENCE ST.
SUITE 101
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85222
(520) 876-0929
FAX: (520) 876-9374

WINDOW ROCK OFFICE:
DNA LEGAL SERVICES BUILDING
HIGHWAY 264 & ROUTE 12
P.O. Box 4673
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
CELL: (928) 607-0792
FAX: (928) 871-4879

SAN CARLOS OFFICE:
EPA BUILDING
10 WEST TONTO
P.O. Box 0
SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550
(928) 853-3750
FAX: (928) 428-7005

WHITRIVER OFFICE:
APACHE VETERAN'S CENTER
201 EAST WALNUT
WHITRIVER, AZ 85941
CELL: (928) 853-3750
FAX: (928) 213-5447

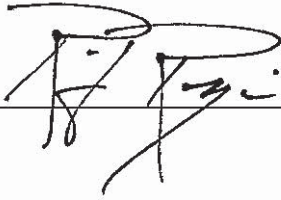
SAFFORD OFFICE:
1420 S. 1ST AVENUE
SUITE 100
SAFFORD, AZ 85546
(928) 428-8194
FAX: (928) 428-5005

individuals may not seek needed care because they lack appropriate documents. Such a result ultimately could have a negative impact on our public health system.

Medicaid plays a vital role in assuring access to health care for our nation's uninsured patients. While we appreciate the need to ensure Medicaid's integrity, we also believe that limiting access to Medicaid with an inflexible documentation policy would be a great disservice to those we have committed to protect serve and protect.

We look forward to working with you to develop an acceptable policy that preserves the Medicaid safety net for America's most needy populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.
