

April 20, 2005

Dear Budget Committee Members and Conferees,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge that any conference agreement on the budget maintain the Senate position that reflects the bipartisan support of the Smith-Bingaman amendment, striking all Medicaid cuts to the budget and establishing a bipartisan Medicaid Commission (S.338/HR.985). The elimination of such cuts is essential for the health and long-term care of Medicaid enrollees, the providers who serve them, and state and local units of governments.

While we understand the enormous pressure you are under as a budget conferee, please remember that 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 budget numbers. The Senate's Budget Resolution recognizes this principle, and we urge you to maintain the Senate position and reject any reconciled cuts to Medicaid.

cc: United States Senate
United States House of Representatives

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 Neurology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services

American Counseling Association

American Dental 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 Foundation for the Blind

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Medical Student Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Nurses Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Podiatric Medical Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Americans for Democratic Action
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Academic Physiatrists
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 (AUCD)
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)
Brain Injury Association of America
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Health Association
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Coalition on Human Needs
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals
Disability Service Providers of America
Easter Seals
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action
Epilepsy Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Every Child Matters Education Fund
Families USA
Family Voices
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Generations United
Health and Disability Advocates
Housing Works, Inc.
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for Reproductive Health Access
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC)
Legal Action Center
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Medicare Rights Center
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
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 Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils
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 for Community Behavioral Healthcare
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 Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Indian Health Board
National Medical Association
National Mental Health Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Puerto Rican Coalition
National Respite Coalition
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Project Inform
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union, (SEIU) AFL-CIO
Society for Adolescent Medicine
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
The Arc of the United States
The National Partnership for Women & Families
Title II Community AIDS National Network (TIICANN)
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Cerebral Palsy
United Jewish Communities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
USAction
Voice of the Retarded
Voices for America's Children
Volunteers of America
Welfare Law Center
Women of Reform Judaism
World Institute on Disability