

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative Boehner:

We are writing to urge you to help pass and extend legislative moratoria to prevent serious harm both to vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries — especially children, people with disabilities, and children in foster care — and to our nation's health care system, in particular its health care safety net. Over the last year the Administration has proposed or issued a series of Medicaid regulations that, if implemented, will have a sharp, adverse impact on beneficiaries, providers, states and localities. The President's FY 2009 budget includes additional regulatory changes.

Last year, at the behest of the nation's governors and a wide array of providers and beneficiary advocates, Congress repeatedly acted on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation to temporarily delay implementation of proposals that would have significantly restricted federal support for services provided to children in schools and rehabilitation services provided to children and people with disabilities. Congress also delayed major changes in payments to public hospitals and other health care providers that would have significantly damaged our health care safety net. If these moratoria are not extended this year, the impact of the regulations will be felt not just by low-income people, but across wide swaths of our communities as states and localities have to find ways to deliver critical services without the support of the longstanding federal-state Medicaid partnership. At a time when many states are facing recessions, they can ill afford to pick up these costs.

Extending the existing moratoria on changes in school-based and rehabilitation services and hospital payments and passing new moratoria to address other recent Administration actions that endanger health care by limiting access to services and harming providers' ability to provide needed services will help protect Medicaid beneficiaries and the health care providers they rely on. This will also prevent state and local governments from cutting other health and social services to cover the added costs of essential services for which federal reimbursement is no longer available. We hope that you will make addressing these regulations one of your highest health care priorities in 2008.

Sincerely,

ACCSES  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Alliance for Children and Families

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association of School Administrators  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Health Care Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Humane Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism Society of America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Rights  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Committee of Ten Thousand  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Catalyst  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Easter Seals  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
First Focus  
Foster Care Alumni of America

Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
HIV Medicine Association  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association  
Inter-National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation  
International Union, United Auto Workers  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Lutheran Services in America  
Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association  
Mental Health America  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for the Dually Diagnosed  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Private Special Education Centers  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Association of Urban Hospitals  
9to5, National Association of Working Women  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Community Action Foundation  
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Education Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigrant Solidarity Network  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Priorities Project  
National Puerto Rican Coalition

National Rehabilitation Association  
National Research Center for Women & Families  
National Respite Coalition  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
NISH  
OMB Watch  
Premier, Inc.  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals (P.E.A.C.H., Inc.)  
Rebecca Project for Human Rights  
RESULTS  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union  
The Arc of the United States  
Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Jewish Communities  
United Neighborhood Centers of America  
United Spinal Association  
USAction  
Voices for America's Children  
VOR - Speaking out for people with mental retardation  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Youth Law Center  
YWCA USA

cc: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus  
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Charles Grassley  
House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell  
House Energy & Commerce Committee Ranking Member Joe Barton