

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2008

Dear Congressional Leadership:

The undersigned organizations, representing hospitals, providers, school districts and organizations concerned about consumers and beneficiaries, urge Congress to take immediate action to enact into law moratoria on seven Medicaid regulations proposed by the Administration.

These seven regulations will drastically alter the Medicaid program, resulting in significant harm to both vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries and providers. If the regulations are not temporarily delayed, Medicaid beneficiaries may no longer receive necessary health care and long term care services and providers will face substantial cuts, damaging the already fragile network of Medicaid providers. These regulations will also lead to drastic cuts in federal funding to the states, which will only exacerbate their current budget problems. If these regulations are not blocked, the loss of federal funds will have rippling effects throughout the health care system and economy. The regulations will not only harm Medicaid beneficiaries and providers, but will lead to job losses, cuts in wages, and reduction of business activity.

These regulations go far beyond any steps to achieve the Administration's stated goal of protecting the fiscal integrity of the Medicaid program. Taken together, the impact of these regulations would undermine the viability of our nation's health care safety net and reduce or eliminate access to health care services for many millions of low income patients.

We applaud the House's overwhelming passage of moratoria on all seven regulations and urge the Senate to similarly pass legislation delaying all seven regulations. The Administration has indicated a willingness to accept short-term moratoria on some of the regulations to discuss them while allowing the remaining regulations to go into effect. Instead, we urge House and Senate lawmakers to pass moratoria on all seven regulations immediately on the first legislative vehicle going to the President. Time is running out. The cost to millions of vulnerable Americans—and to our whole health care safety net—is at stake.

Sincerely,

ACCSES

ADAP Advocacy Association

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

AIDS Action

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition

AIDS Treatment Data Network

Alliance for Children and Families

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Association

American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association of School Administrators

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Counseling Association

American Dental Education Association

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

American Federation of State, County and Municipal

American Federation of Teachers

American Health Care Association

American Hospital Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Nurses Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American School Health Association

Americans for Democratic Action

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association for Career and Technical Education

Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of School Business Officials International
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Catholic Health Association of the US
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
Coalition on Human Needs
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare
Community Catalyst
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Chief State School Officers
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children
Easter Seals
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Families USA
Federation of American Hospitals
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
Hemophilia Federation of America
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
HIV Medicine Association

IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association
Institute of Social Medicine and Community Health
International Union, United Auto Workers
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
LDA, The Learning Disabilities Association of America
LEAnet (Local Education Agencies Network)
Legal Action Center
Lutheran Services in America
Medicaid Health Plans of America
Mental Health America
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Counties
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of People with AIDS
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of Urban Hospitals
National Center for Assisted Living
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumer
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Health Law Program
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Medical Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National PTA
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Health Association
National School Boards Association
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
NCCNHR: The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
NISH
OMB Watch
Project Inform
Rebecca Project for Human Rights
RESULTS
School Social Work Association of America
Sergeant Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union
State Associations of Addiction Services
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, United Church of Christ
TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network
Union for Reform Judaism
United Cerebral Palsy

United Spinal Association

USAction

Voice of the Retarded

Voices for America's Children

Wider Opportunities for Women