



April 1, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20015

The Honorable Tim Murphy
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Chairman Dingell and Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of Voices for America's Children, representing 60 state and local children's advocacy organizations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, I would like to extend our endorsement of the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008*, H.R. 5613.

Voices advocates for effective public policies that will improve the lives of all children in their communities and states. The Medicaid regulations issued over the last year by the Bush Administration will force communities and states to cut back on services impacting children in a time of economic volatility. Allowing the series of rules to take effect would undermine decades of work in the states to serve vulnerable children. Many members of our network have worked with state agencies, governors' offices, state legislatures, and families to develop more effective services for children and made use of the options under Medicaid as a critical component to create a coordinated system of care for children. With the full knowledge and approval of CMS, states have made use of these Medicaid options in different ways, enabling states to better address the complex needs of children and create more comprehensive and coordinated service and treatment plans to restore or improve their healthy development.

Nearly 30 million children and youth are currently served by Medicaid. The program must remain a strong, central component of our nation's health care delivery system for children. Local and state governments are already being forced to cut existing services to vulnerable populations due to the downturn in the economy. The federal government should not add to this burden.

Voices looks forward to working with you to move H.R. 5613 to enactment.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Bentley", is written over a white background.

William H. Bentley
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: House Energy and Commerce Committee Members
House Democratic Leadership
House Republican Leadership



FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Membership List (by state)

With 60 members in nearly every state, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Voices for America's Children (Voices) is the only nationwide network of state and local child advocacy organizations. Members of Voices are independent, nonprofit, multi-issue organizations dedicated to the well-being of children in their locations.

By gathering data and conducting research, educating the public and the media, working with elected officials, monitoring government programs, and offering creative solutions, Voices' members advocate for children across the country.

VOICES for Alabama's Children *
Montgomery, AL

Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families *
Little Rock, AR

Children's Action Alliance *
Phoenix, AZ

Children Now *
Oakland, CA

Children's Advocacy Institute *
San Diego, CA

Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth *
San Francisco, CA

Kids in Common *
San Jose, CA

Colorado Children's Campaign *
Denver, CO

Connecticut Voices for Children *
New Haven, CT

DC Action for Children *
Washington, DC

KIDS COUNT in Delaware **
Newark, DE

Children's Campaign, Inc. *
Tallahassee, FL

Voices for Georgia's Children *
Atlanta, GA

Good Beginnings Alliance *
Honolulu, HI

Child & Family Policy Center *
Des Moines, IA

Idaho Voices for Children Foundation, Inc. *
Boise, ID

Voices for Illinois Children *
Chicago, IL

Kansas Action for Children *
Topeka, KS

Kentucky Youth Advocates *
Jeffersontown, KY

Agenda for Children *
New Orleans, LA

Massachusetts Citizens for Children *
Boston, MA

Advocates for Children & Youth *
Baltimore, MD

Maine Children's Alliance *
Augusta, ME

Michigan's Children *
Lansing, MI

Priority Children *
Flint, MI

Citizens for Missouri's Children *
St. Louis, MO

Partnership for Children *
Kansas City, MO

Mississippi Forum on Children & Families *
Jackson, MS

Action for Children North Carolina *
Raleigh, NC

North Dakota KIDS COUNT! **
Fargo, ND

Voices for Children in Nebraska *
Omaha, NE

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire *
Concord, NH

Association for Children of New Jersey *
Newark, NJ

New Mexico Voices for Children *
Albuquerque, NM

Children's Advocacy Alliance **
Henderson, NV

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York *
New York, NY

Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy *
Albany, NY

Westchester Children's Association *
White Plains, NY

Voices for Ohio's Children *
Cleveland, OH

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy *
Oklahoma City, OK

Children First for Oregon *
Portland, OR

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children *
Harrisburg, PA

Public Citizens for Children & Youth *
Philadelphia, PA

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT *
Providence, RI

Voices for South Carolina's Children *
Columbia, SC

South Dakota KIDS COUNT **
Vermillion, SD

South Dakota Voices for Children *
Sioux Falls, SD

Black Children's Institute of Tennessee *
Nashville, TN

Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth **
Nashville, TN

CHILDREN AT RISK *
Houston, TX

Texans Care for Children *
Austin, TX

Voices for Children of San Antonio *
San Antonio, TX

Voices for Utah Children *
Salt Lake City, UT

Voices for Virginia's Children *
Richmond, VA

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands **
St. Thomas, VI

Voices for Vermont's Children *
Montpelier, VT

Children's Alliance *
Seattle, WA

Wisconsin Council on Children & Families *
Madison, WI

West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund *
Charleston, WV

Wyoming Children's Action Alliance *
Cheyenne, WY