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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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March 19, 2008

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STOP Medicaid Cuts to Your State!
Cosponsor H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008"

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in cosponsoring H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008". This legislation places a temporary one-year moratorium on seven Medicaid regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to the Congressional Budget Office, together these regulations would reduce by nearly \$20 billion over the next five years Federal Medicaid funding to States for vital programs and services.

H.R. 5613 would protect States, beneficiaries, and providers from the Medicaid cuts caused by the following rules:

- Restrictions on payment for Medicaid coverage of rehabilitation services;
- Elimination of payment for specialized medical transportation for children with disabilities in schools and school-based outreach and enrollment;
- Restrictions on payment for targeted case management services that help people with disabilities remain in or rejoin living in their community;
- Redefinition of allowable provider taxes used to raise State funding for Medicaid;
- Restrictions on payment for Medicaid hospital outpatient department benefits;
- Restrictions on payments to safety net institutions (intergovernmental transfers); and
- Elimination of payment for graduate medical education in Medicaid.

A recent letter from the National Governors Association urged Congress to block these regulations and noted, "While states are committed to upholding their responsibility to Medicaid, we have significant concerns that the actions taken by CMS will effectively end the federal government's participation in many crucial components of the Medicaid program and inappropriately shift those costs to states."

A similar letter from the American Public Human Services Association and the National Association of State Medicaid Directors stated, "...these regulations will impose billions of dollars of cuts over the next five years, an amount that will be difficult for states to absorb and would restrict the reach and effectiveness of the Medicaid program in many states."

The "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008" would halt the implementation of these rules until March of 2009. Please join us in supporting this important legislation. To become a cosponsor, please contact Hasan Sarsour (hasan.sarsour@mail.house.gov) with the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at ext. 5-2927 or Brendan Belair (brendan.belair@mail.house.gov) with Representative Tim Murphy's staff at ext. 5-2301.

Sincerely,


John D. Dingell
Chairman


Tim Murphy
Member