

April 2, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of Families USA, the national voice of health care consumers, I am writing to express support for H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. The Administration's new regulations seriously weaken the Medicaid program and would harm low-income children with special health care needs and people with disabilities the most.

The 2007 regulations will put the health of millions of vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries, particularly children, at risk. State Medicaid Directors have estimated that the regulations would cut federal Medicaid funding to states by nearly \$50 billion over five years. Members of Congress, state Medicaid Directors, hospitals, provider groups, and advocates all believe the regulations seriously undermine the nation's health care safety net.

Congress must move quickly to pass this legislation before the regulations that only have moratoria through May or June go into effect, and before any further damage is done by the regulations that have already gone into effect. We are pleased that the proposed legislation would delay all seven of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rules until April 1, 2009.

We appreciate your strong leadership and look forward to working with you to ensure that these harmful regulations are stopped before they jeopardize the health of millions of our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,



Ronald F. Pollack
Executive Director