



Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Schools
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March 25, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Dingell and Murphy:

On behalf of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school district, which educates all the children in our community including those with special needs, and is integral to fulfilling their health care needs, I write in support of the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008" (H.R. 5613).

As a school district that struggles each and every day to meet the needs of every child, including some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in our community, we join with all the other school districts, state agencies, and public health care providers in resisting the CMS rules that threaten to diminish the services available to the most needy children in our communities and to undermine the arrangements that have been in place to provide those critically needed health services for many years.

We strongly support this legislation placing a temporary one-year moratorium on seven questionable Medicaid regulations that would make significant cuts to the Medicaid program over the next five years and urge its passage by the Congress.

We believe the regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will not improve the efficiency of the Medicaid program and are in direct conflict with the purpose of the Medicaid program and the Federal and State partnership it is built upon. These regulations will severely reduce or eliminate funding that supports the Medicaid program and the services provided to its beneficiaries. They shift costs to state and local entities without regard to the impact on services or the undermining of the federal and state partnership that underpins the Medicaid program. School districts across the country will have no choice but to reduce services to children as CMS reduces federal funds used by schools to fulfill the mandates of Medicaid and the education services we must provide. These regulations will have a wide range of impacts and affect outreach and identification of Medicaid eligible children, restrict funding for transportation, case management and related health care services. We strongly support a moratorium to delay these regulations until Congress can accomplish its work and to review the appropriateness and impacts of them.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important public health issue and your tireless efforts to preserve the school based health services that Congress has supported through legislation for over two decades.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at (336) 727-2292 or by email at dlmartin@wsfcs.k12.nc.us or dlambeth@wsfcs.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Chair
Board of Education

Superintendent
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

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