

# American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



March 16, 2004

The Honorable Lois Capps  
U. S. House of Representatives  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0523

Dear Representative Capps:

On Wednesday, March 17, the Budget Committee is expected to consider your amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Resolution. This amendment would strike reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Energy and Commerce that would, in effect, result in a cut of more than \$2 billion from the Federal share of the Medicaid program. We encourage all committee members, in the strongest terms, to support the Capps amendment and reject this cut to our nation's health care safety net.

In recent years, strains on state budgets have forced many Medicaid programs to limit services and enrollment as well as further slash payments to physicians and other providers. Already, Medicaid payments fail to cover the cost of providing most physician services. If states are forced to make more cuts, many physicians will be forced to curtail the provision of services to beneficiaries, not as a choice but as an economic necessity.

Please help ensure that the Medicaid program maintains its role as a safety net for the nation's most vulnerable populations by supporting the Capps amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Maves".

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA