

**National
Committee to
Preserve
Social Security
and Medicare**



**Barbara B. Kennelly
President &
Chief Executive Officer**

March 14, 2005

The United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 4 million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I urge you to oppose the proposed cuts to Medicaid, as well as, any funding caps to the program.

We are keenly aware that cutting Medicaid could decimate critical services that seniors rely on for basic healthcare needs, including hospitalization, physician services, long-term care, prescription drugs, dental care, and hearing aids. Medicaid plays a leading role in health care coverage for six million dual eligible beneficiaries by filling in Medicare's coverage gap for those with low-income.

Any cuts or caps to the program will disproportionately hurt seniors who receive a larger share of Medicaid's expenditures because they require more frequent and expensive medical attention. Seniors represent only 9 percent of Medicaid's enrollees and receive over a quarter of Medicaid's expenditures.

The current structure of the Medicaid program needs to be strengthened and preserved. Attempts to cut and cap the program would end coverage for millions of beneficiaries and shift rising health care costs on to state governments that are already struggling to meet the needs of an aging population.

As debate on the budget resolution moves to the House floor, we strongly urge you to oppose any cuts or caps to the Medicaid program. We look forward to working with Congress to improve all programs that benefit our nation's seniors.

Cordially,

Barbara B. Kennelly
President and CEO