

March 25, 2003

The Honorable Don Nickles
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Spratt
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives

Dear Senator Nickles, Senator Conrad, Rep. Nussle, Rep. Spratt:

Medicaid provides essential health coverage to 47 million low-income children, working families, seniors, and people with disabilities. This critical safety net program also contributes significantly to state economies by stimulating employment and business activity.

As you know, the House-passed budget resolution includes a reconciliation instruction requiring an estimated \$92 billion in cuts to Medicaid funding over ten years. Neither the Senate budget resolution nor the Administration budget includes any such cuts to Medicaid.

States are currently facing the most severe budget crisis since World War II and nearly every state has proposed or enacted cuts to its Medicaid program. Any reduction in federal Medicaid funding would place millions of vulnerable Americans now receiving Medicaid in jeopardy of losing their health coverage. Federal funding reductions would force states to implement even deeper cuts by restricting eligibility, eliminating or reducing critical health benefits, and severely cutting or freezing provider reimbursement rates. As a result, Medicaid funding cuts would add millions more to the ranks of the uninsured.

We the undersigned Senators are writing to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of any Medicaid cuts in the final budget resolution. Cutting federal Medicaid funding would add millions more to the growing ranks of 41 million uninsured Americans, even as Medicaid is most needed during an economic downturn.

The Senate has recently voted overwhelmingly to support state fiscal relief efforts to keep

states from having to cut eligibility or further reduce provider payments under their Medicaid programs. The size and scope of any relief efforts will be considered by the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate as a whole.

We call on the FY 2004 Budget Resolution conferees to reject the inclusion of any Medicaid cuts as part of the final budget resolution.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman

Max Baucus
Ranking Member

Senators on Letter Against Medicaid Cuts

1. AKAKA, Daniel K. (D-HI) SH-141 4-6361
2. ALEXANDER, Lamar (R-TN) SD-B40-2 4-4944
3. ALLEN, George (R-VA) SR-204 4-4024
4. BAUCUS, Max (D-MT) SH-511 4-2651
5. BAYH, Evan (D-IN) SR-463 4-5623
6. BENNETT, Robert F. (R-UT) SD-431 4-5444
7. BIDEN, Jr., Joseph R. (D-DE) SR-221 4-5042
8. BINGAMAN, Jeff (D-NM) SH-703 4-5521
9. BOND, Christopher S. (R-MO) SR-274 4-5721
10. BOXER, Barbara (D-CA) SH-112 4-3553
11. BREAU, John B. (D-LA) SH-503 4-4623
12. BROWBACK, Sam (R-KS) SH-303 4-6521
13. BUNNING, Jim (R-KY) SH-316 4-4343
14. BYRD, Robert C. (D-WV) SH-311 4-3954
15. CAMPBELL, Ben Nighthorse (R-CO) SR-380 4-5852
16. CANTWELL, Maria (D-WA) SH-717 4-3441
17. CARPER, Thomas R. (D-DE) SH-513 4-2441
18. CHAFEE, Lincoln D. (R-RI) SR-141A 4-2921
19. CHAMBLISS, Saxby (R-GA) SR-C2 4-3521
20. CLINTON, Hillary Rodham (D-NY) SR-476 4-4451
21. COCHRAN, Thad (R-MS) SD-113 4-5054
22. COLEMAN, Norm (R-MN) SD-B40-3 4-5641
23. COLLINS, Susan M. (R-ME) SR-172 4-2523
24. CORZINE, Jon S. (D-NJ) SH-502 4-4744
25. DASCHLE, Tom (D-SD) SH-509 4-2321
26. DAYTON, Mark (D-MN) SR-346 4-3244
27. DeWINE, Mike (R-OH) SR-140 4-2315
28. DODD, Christopher J. (D-CT) SR-448 4-2823
29. DOMENICI, Pete V. (R-NM) SH-328 4-6621
30. DORGAN, Byron L. (D-ND) SH-713 4-2551
31. DURBIN, Richard J. (D-IL) SD-332 4-2152
32. EDWARDS, John (D-NC) SD-225 4-3154
33. FEINGOLD, Russell D. (D-WI) SH-506 4-5323
34. FEINSTEIN, Dianne (D-CA) SH-331 4-3841
35. FITZGERALD, Peter G. (R-IL) SD-555 4-2854
36. FRIST, Bill (R-TN) SR-416 4-3344
37. GRAHAM, Bob (D-FL) SH-524 4-3041

- 38.GRAHAM, Lindsey O. (R-SC) SR-C1 4-5972
- 39.GRASSLEY, Charles E. (R-IA) SH-135 4-3744
- 40.HAGEL, Chuck (R-NE) SR-248 4-4224
- 41.HARKIN, Tom (D-IA) SH-731 4-3254
- 42.HATCH, Orrin G. (R-UT) SH-104 4-5251
- 43.HUTCHISON, Kay Bailey (R-TX) SR-284 4-5922
- 44.INHOFE, James M. (R-OK) SR-453 4-4721
- 45.INOUE, Daniel K. (D-HI) SH-722 4-3934
- 46.JEFFORDS, James M. (I-VT) SD-413 4-5141
- 47.JOHNSON, Tim (D-SD) SH-324 4-5842
- 48.KENNEDY, Edward M. (D-MA) SR-317 4-4543
- 49.KERRY, John F. (D-MA) SR-304 4-2742
- 50.KOHL, Herb (D-WI) SH-330 4-5653
- 51.LANDRIEU, Mary L. (D-LA) SH-724 4-5824
- 52.LAUTENBERG, Frank (D-NJ) SH-825A 4-3224
- 53.LEAHY, Patrick J. (D-VT) SR-433 4-4242
- 54.LEVIN, Carl (D-MI) SR-269 4-6221
- 55.LIEBERMAN, Joseph I. (D-CT) SH-706 4-4041
- 56.LINCOLN, Blanche L. (D-AR) SD-355 4-4843
- 57.LUGAR, Richard G. (R-IN) SH-306 4-4814
- 58.McCAIN, John (R-AZ) SR-241 4-2235
- 59.MIKULSKI, Barbara A. (D-MD) SH-709 4-4654
- 60.MURKOWSKI, Lisa (R-AK) SH-322 4-6665
- 61.MURRAY, Patty (D-WA) SR-173 4-2621
- 62.NELSON, Bill (D-FL) SH-716 4-5274
- 63.NELSON, E. Benjamin (D-NE) SH-720 4-6551
- 64.PRYOR, Mark (D-AR) SH-825 4-2353
- 65.REED, Jack (D-RI) SH-320 4-4642
- 66.REID, Harry (D-NV) SH-528 4-3542
- 67.ROBERTS, Pat (R-KS) SH-302 4-4774
- 68.ROCKEFELLER IV, John D. (D-WV) SH-531 4-6472
- 69.SARBANES, Paul S. (D-MD) SH-309 4-4524
- 70.SCHUMER, Charles E. (D-NY) SH-313 4-6542
- 71.SMITH, Gordon (R-OR) SR-404 4-3753
- 72.SNOWE, Olympia J. (R-ME) SR-154 4-5344
- 73.SPECTER, Arlen (R-PA) SH-711 4-4254
- 74.STABENOW, Debbie (D-MI) SH-702 4-4822
- 75.TALENT, James M. (R-MO) SH-517 4-6154
- 76.THOMAS, Craig (R-WY) SD-307 4-6441
- 77.VOINOVICH, George V. (R-OH) SH-317 4-3353

78. WARNER, John W. (R-VA) SR-225 4-2023
79. WYDEN, Ron (D-OR) SH 516 4-5244