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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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April 1, 2003

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***Instruct House Budget Conferees NOT to Cut Medicaid in the
Final Budget Resolution***

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to support the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Budget Resolution which includes instructions to the conferees to reject budget cuts that would reduce health care for the 51 million seniors, women, children, and disabled individuals on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

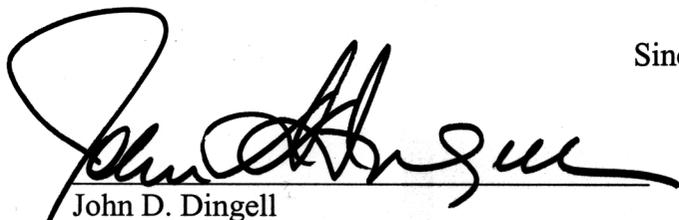
The House-passed budget resolution calls for \$94 billion in cuts to Medicaid and the CHIP. We support the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs, but even with additional resources for oversight and investigations, savings of this magnitude from Medicaid and CHIP are unrealistic. A cut of this size will ultimately result in millions of the elderly, people with disabilities, infants, and children losing health insurance coverage.

Numerous groups have expressed their opposition to these cuts, including: *provider groups* such as the American Hospital Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Health Care Association, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, National Association of Children's Hospitals, and Amerigroup HMO; *beneficiary organizations* such as the Children's Defense Fund, Consumers Union, AARP, and the American Association of People with Disabilities, and *state organizations*, including the National Governors Association and the Democratic Governors Association.

In addition, 79 Senators signed a letter opposing the cuts to Medicaid in the House Budget Resolution. Their letter notes, "...Medicaid funding cuts would add millions to the ranks of the uninsured."

Help preserve health insurance coverage for American families rather than gut it. We urge you to join us in voicing your opposition to these cuts to Medicaid and CHIP by voting FOR the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Budget Resolution.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Ranking Member



Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health