

December 18, 2012

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations, representing a variety of stakeholders including providers and consumers, urge you to not make harmful cuts to Medicaid or change the structure of the program as part of a deficit reduction agreement. There is little room to cut in Medicaid other than the health care services that seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income women and children rely upon.

Medicaid Is a Lean Program

Medicaid must be off the table because it is a program that has little fat to cut. Administrative costs in Medicaid are extremely low. More than 96 percent of federal Medicaid spending goes to pay for health care and long-term care for program enrollees, not overhead. Payment rates for providers in Medicaid are already lower than rates for Medicare and private insurance. Cutting rates further could mean that more providers would be unwilling to participate in the program.

Medicaid Provides Good Health Care

Americans with Medicaid like their health care. One study found that *54 percent* of adults with Medicaid rated their health plan a “9” or “10” on a 1 to 10 scale (with 10 being the highest). Several studies have shown that having Medicaid is far better than being uninsured.

Medicaid Helps Millions of Americans

Americans understand the importance of Medicaid because it provides both health care and long-term care to multiple constituencies. Cuts to Medicaid would force states to reduce services for children, putting their health, and their success later in life, at risk. Medicaid also improves the health and lives of many women, people of color, seniors, and people with disabilities. The program is integral to women’s health, as more than two-thirds of all adult Medicaid enrollees are women. Communities of color disproportionately count on it for their health care. More than 15.6 million seniors and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid. Medicaid is the largest payer of long-term care, including home- and community-based care and long-term supports and services. Medicaid cuts would force states to reduce nursing home and home-care coverage, which would shift a larger burden onto individuals who need long-term care and the families who care for them. That would place a further strain on our struggling middle class.

Cutting Medicaid Would Shift Costs to the States and Damage Local Economies

Medicaid is an invaluable tool for states when economic downturns or natural disasters hit, because of the program’s ability to expand to serve additional people in crisis. Any cut or restructuring of Medicaid—whether it be by block granting the program, instituting a per capita cap, or by limiting provider taxes—is simply a cost shift to states and families. Federal Medicaid spending stimulates

economic activity and job growth in the states. Cutting Medicaid while state economies are still struggling would severely jeopardize states' financial recovery.

Although health care costs are rising faster than inflation, Medicaid costs are rising more slowly than health care costs in the private market. With the above reasons in mind, we hope you will agree that cuts or structural changes to Medicaid would be harmful to millions of Americans. As our economy struggles to recover, now is not the time for the federal government to shift costs to states and families.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women

AARP

ACCSES

ActionAIDS

African American Health Alliance

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

AIDS United

Alliance for a Just Society

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Dental Education Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Friends Service Committee

American Health Care Association

American Kidney Fund

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychoanalytic Association

American Psychological Association Practice Organization

American Society on Aging

Aniz Inc

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

B'nai B'rith International
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Community Change
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for Rural Affairs
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Access National Network
Community Action Partnership
Community Healthcare Network
Community Transportation Association of America
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
Consumer Action
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Direct Care Alliance
Disability Policy Consortium
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Disability Section of the American Public Health Association
Disciples Justice Action Network
Easter Seals
Faithful Reform in Health Care
Families USA
First Focus
Gay Men's Health Crisis
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Health Care for America Now
HealthHIV
Healthy Kinder, Inc
Healthy Teen Network
Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA)
HIV Law Project
HIV Medicine Association
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
LeadingAge
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lutheran Services in America

Main Street Alliance
March of Dimes
Medicare Rights Center
Men's Health Network
Mental Health America
MomsRising
NAACP
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health.
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of People With AIDS
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Assisted Living
National Center for Health and The Aging
National Center for Health in Public Housing
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Education Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Indian Health Board
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Lung Cancer Partnership

National Medical Association
National Minority AIDS Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Physicians Alliance
National Respite Coalition
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National Senior Corps Association (NSCA)
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Not Dead Yet
PHI - Quality Care through Quality Jobs
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness
Prescription Policy Choices
Project Inform
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Raising Women's Voices

RESULTS

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Senior Moments - Providing Assistance to Isolated and Homebound Seniors
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc
The AIDS Institute.
The Arc of the United States
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc
The Consumer Voice
The Jewish Federations of North America
The National Health Law Program
The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
The School Social Work Association
The Society for Social Work Leadership in Healthcare
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
United Spinal Association
Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN)
Us TOO
Village Care
Visiting Nurse Associations of America
Voices for America's Children

VOR - Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities

Wider Opportunities for Women

Women of Reform Judaism

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)

Young Invisibles

YWCA USA