

March 30, 2004

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  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Budget Conferees:

The undersigned organizations strongly oppose any Medicaid cuts included in the fiscal year 2005 budget resolution, especially any reconciliation instructions that require the Energy and Commerce Committee or the Finance Committee to cut entitlement spending. Such cuts would harm the more than 51 million Americans who rely on Medicaid for their health care lifeline, and reduce reimbursement to critical health care providers.

Medicaid provides health insurance to America's most vulnerable seniors, children, pregnant women, working families, and people with disabilities. Seniors receive prescription drug coverage and long-term care services through Medicaid. Children obtain vital screening and prevention services under Medicaid. Nearly one in ten American women—and one-third of all poor women—rely on the Medicaid program for their health care. Medicaid also provides the crucial services such as long term supports and services and therapy that people with disabilities need.

The states are already facing a major loss in federal Medicaid funds when the temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The states are also facing unexpected new costs in helping to implement the new Medicare prescription drug law. To add any budget cuts on top of these existing strains will create enormous hardship for states and threaten the health security of the Americans who rely on Medicaid for their essential health care services. These cuts would occur as states are beginning to recover from the most severe budget crisis since World War II. States need more, not less, federal Medicaid funding to sustain their current Medicaid programs and avoid greater cutbacks that add to the ranks of the uninsured and further shifting costs to health care providers.

**We urge the Conference Committee to protect Medicaid in the fiscal year 2005 budget and to adhere to the bipartisan principle established in the Senate that does not require the Energy and Commerce or Finance Committees to produce budgetary savings that will lead to cuts in the Medicaid program.**

cc: Budget Conferees

Sincerely,

Advancing Independence  
Advocates for Children and Youth, Inc.  
AIDS Action  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families  
AIDS Treatment Data Network  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Alzheimer's Association  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Mental Retardation  
American Cancer Society  
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists  
American Congress of Community Support and Employment Services  
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Council of the Blind  
American Counseling Association  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Health Care Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons

American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Association for Gerontology and Human Development at Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
Association for Health Center Affiliated Health Plans  
Association for the Advancement of Psychology  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Call to Renewal  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
Center on Disability and Health  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
CHAMP, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Inc.  
Children's Foundation  
Church Women United  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Advocates for Developmentally Disabled (CADD)  
Community Healthcare Network  
Concerned Citizens for the Mentally Retarded  
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries  
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Disability Service Providers of America  
Easter Seals  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc.  
Generations United  
Gray Panthers  
Helen Keller National Center  
HIV Medicine Association

I Am Your Child  
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinator Association  
Institute for Reproductive Health Access  
International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services  
International Union, UAW  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Last Acts Partnership  
Legal Action Center  
Lutheran Network for Justice Advocacy  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Medicaid Matters New York  
NAADAC - The Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Adult Day Services Association  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association for Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A)  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors (NACBHD)  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US)  
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers  
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Association of State Units on Aging  
National Association of Urban Hospitals  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)  
National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Council on the Aging

National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Fragile X Foundation  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Indian Council on Aging  
National Medical Association  
National Mental Health Association  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National MS Society  
National Organization on Disability  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rehabilitation Association  
National Respite Coalition  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Older Women's League  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parents & Associates Advocate Council  
Pediatrix Medical Group  
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
Project Inform  
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM)  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Spina Bifida Association of America  
State Associations of Addiction Services  
The Arc of the United States  
The Gerontological Society of America  
UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Jewish Communities  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Spinal Association  
USAction  
Visiting Nurses Association of America

Voice of the Retarded  
Voices for America's Children  
Volunteers of America  
Welfare Law Center  
Women of Reform Judaism  
World Institute on Disability