

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
United States Senate
SH-531
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gordon Smith
United States Senate
SR-404
Washington, DC 20510

August 2, 2004

Dear Senators Rockefeller and Smith:

The undersigned organizations thank you very much for your leadership in sponsoring S. 2671, legislation to help the states prevent Medicaid cuts.

Because of balanced budget requirements, many states are facing continuing, severe cuts in their Medicaid programs. While some states are finding revenues are improving over levels of the past two years, most still face very serious shortfalls in 2004 and again are likely to turn to Medicaid for savings. The July 1st expiration of last year's temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increases the pressure to cut this critical safety net program and makes it harder for states to serve the growing number of uninsured.

A further, temporary increase in the FMAP will help states stabilize their Medicaid programs, reduce the need for cutbacks, and provide an important economic stimulus at a time when the economy still needs improvement.

We look forward to working with you on enactment of this legislation, which is so important to millions of low-income children and families, to people with disabilities living in the community, and those in our nation's nursing homes.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Treatment Data Network
Alliance for Children and Families
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Public Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Catholic Health Association of the United States

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Disability Service Providers of America (DSPA)
Easter Seals
Families USA
Generations United
HIV Medicine Association
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ
Institute for Reproductive Health Access
International AIDS Empowerment
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, ELCA
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Urban Hospitals
National Council on Independent Living
National Council on Aging
National Health Law Program, Inc.
National Mental Health Association
National Partnership for Women and Families
Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Project Inform, San Francisco
RESULTS
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Service Employees International Union
The Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Title II Community AIDS National Network (TIICANN)
United Jewish Communities
United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
USAction
Voice of the Retarded
Volunteers of America