

# America's Health Care Providers Oppose Cuts to the Medicaid Program

March 11, 2004

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

America's health care providers stand together in strongly opposing Medicaid funding reductions and urge you to reject them in the House budget resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. We urge Congress to support amendments to the budget resolution that would restore Medicaid funding.

States are already in a severe fiscal crisis. And when state Medicaid budgets are squeezed, state legislatures often look first to provider payment cuts and benefit and eligibility changes as a way to achieve savings. Additional Medicaid cuts at the federal level will therefore further weaken the already tenuous foundation of the health care safety net, dramatically harming the ability of providers to continue serving our most vulnerable patients.

Moreover, states already will face reductions in Medicaid support when the \$10 billion in temporary state fiscal relief expires on June 30, 2004. We urge you to consider an extension of Medicaid's federal matching assistance and avoid cuts to the program.

Millions of people with no place else to turn rely on Medicaid for their health care. As the providers who deliver the services they need, we again strongly urge you to reject all Medicaid reduction provisions in the FY 2005 budget resolution and protect health care for the nation's poor, elderly and disabled.

Sincerely,

**American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Federation of American Hospitals  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
VHA Inc.**