

America's Health Care Providers

February 15, 2005

Dear Member of Congress:

As America's health care providers, we know first-hand the important role that Medicaid plays in the health and well being of some of our nation's neediest populations. While we understand the need for fiscal discipline for federal programs, we are concerned that Medicaid budget cuts of \$60 billion over ten years as outlined in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget, may adversely impact the ability of health care providers to meet the health care needs of millions of Americans. We urge Congress to reject any proposal that will put our most vulnerable citizens in jeopardy.

The President also issued a call to reform the current Medicaid program. We agree that there are ways to strengthen this vital program and we are open to discussing and examining potential reforms to the program; however, the true test of any reform will be the impact on those who depend upon this program - the children, developmentally disabled, blind, poor and elderly. It is vital that any Medicaid reform be guided by a commitment to the health and security of our nation.

We share the goal of ensuring the long-term financial stability of Medicaid, but we believe the Medicaid reductions as outlined in the President's budget proposal may undermine what we believe is our shared interest - to ensure that our health care safety net is reliable, secure and provides quality care to our nation's poor and elderly.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Physicians
American Dental Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Health Care Association
American Hospital Association
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Medicaid Health Plans of America
National Association of Children's Hospitals

National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Center for Assisted Living
National Hispanic Medical Association
Premier
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Hospital Medicine
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