

February 26, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139-E Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Rangel, and Ranking Members Barton and McCrery:

We are writing to express our serious concern about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) plan to dramatically cut Medicaid funding and make major policy changes to the program while disregarding congressional input. The recently proposed cuts to the Medicaid program will have a severe impact on more than 57 million Americans who rely on the program for their health care. It will also tie the hands of individuals and organizations that serve them. Preventing this rule from taking effect requires the immediate attention of Congress.

On January 18, 2007, CMS released a proposed rule [CMS-2258-P] imposing cost limits for public health care providers and altering the definition of "public" status. Specifically, the proposed rule would limit payments to government safety-net providers by capping reimbursement payments, redefining eligible public providers and imposing new restrictions on non-federal funding sources. According to CMS, the estimated impact of these changes could reach \$3.87 billion over five years.

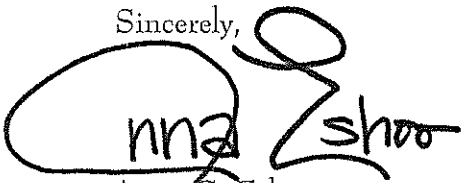
Congress has repeatedly resisted the Administration's efforts to undermine America's safety net. As part of its Fiscal Year 2007 budget, the Administration proposed cutting the Medicaid program by \$12.2 billion over five years, of which \$5.8 billion would have directly affected hospital payments. Congress wisely declined to implement the cuts and they were not included in either the House or Senate FY07 budget resolutions. Last year 300 bipartisan Members of Congress and 55 Senators sent letters to Secretary Leavitt urging that he not move forward via the regulatory process with the proposed cuts that could jeopardize health care access for the most vulnerable Americans.

At a time when states are working toward expanding health care coverage for the uninsured, the CMS's proposal would thwart their progress by weakening an already fragile safety net. The

Medicaid program is a shared responsibility between the states and federal government, and attempts to shift the cost burden onto states will leave them with no choice but to cut benefits or eliminate coverage. The results would be devastating and will likely increase the number of uninsured Americans rather than help improve our health care system.

We urge your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to craft a legislative proposal that will prevent CMS from moving forward with the implementation of this dangerous and unfair rule.

Sincerely,



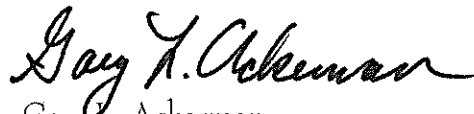
Anna G. Eshoo



Peter T. King



Neil Abercrombie



Gary L. Ackerman



Robert B. Aderholt



Thomas H. Allen



Jason Altmire



Joe Baca



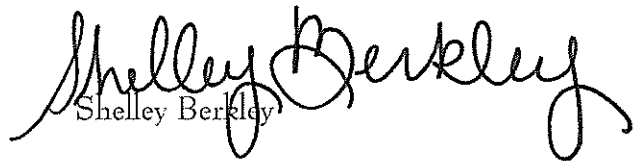
Spencer Bachus



Melissa L. Bean



Xavier Becerra



Shelley Berkley



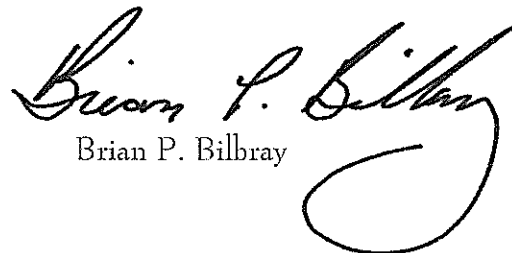
Howard L. Berman



Marion Berry



Judy Biggert



Brian P. Bilbray

Gus M. Bilirakis

Sanford D. Bishop

Timothy H. Bishop

Jo Bonner

Mary Bono

John Boozman

Leonard L. Boswell

Rick Boucher

Charles W. Boustany, Jr.

Allen Boyd

Nancy E. Boyd

Robert A. Brady

Corrine Brown

G.K. Butterfield

Ken Calvert

Shelley Moore Capito

Lois Capps

Michael E. Capuano

Dennis A. Cardoza

John R. Carter

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor

Wm. Lacy Clay

William Lacy Clay

Emanuel Cleaver

Emanuel Cleaver

Howard Coble

Howard Coble

Jim Costa

Jim Costa

Jerry F. Costello

Jerry F. Costello

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar

Artur Davis

Artur Davis

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Lincoln Davis

Lincoln Davis

Susan A. Davis

Susan A. Davis

Tom Davis

Tom Davis

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

William D. Delahunt

William D. Delahunt

Rosa L. DeLauro

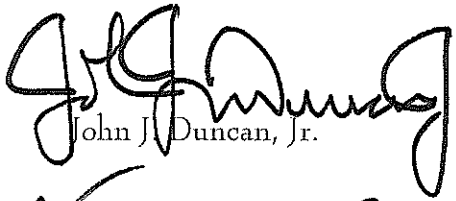
Rosa DeLauro

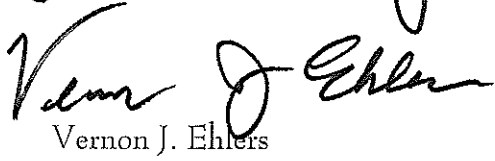
Lincoln Diaz-Balart

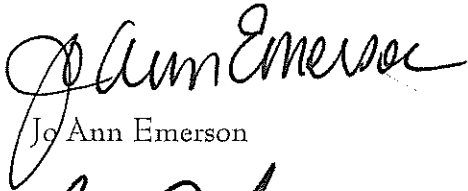
Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Norman D. Dicks

Norman D. Dicks


John J. Duncan, Jr.


Vernon J. Ehlers


Jo Ann Emerson

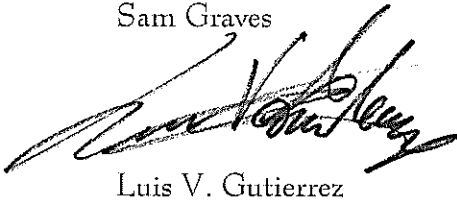

Bob Etheridge


Bob Filner



Barney Frank

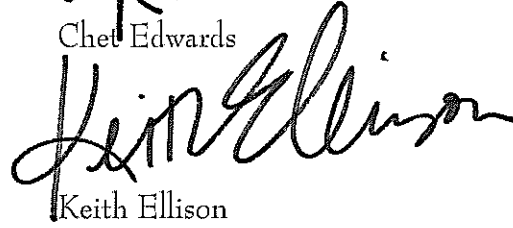

Charles A. Gonzalez


Sam Graves


Luis V. Gutierrez

Ralph M. Hall


Chet Edwards


Keith Ellison


Phil English

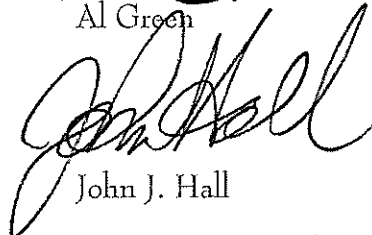

Sam Farr


Vito Fossella

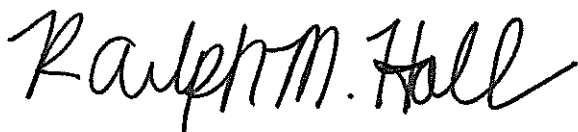

Louie Gohmert


Bart Gordon


Al Green


John J. Hall


Phil Hare

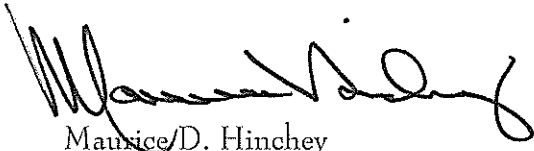

Ralph M. Hall



Jane Harman



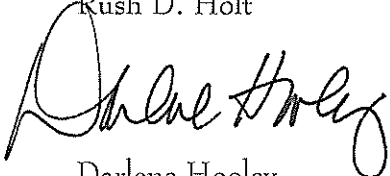
Robin Hayes



Maurice/D. Hinchey



Rush D. Holt



Darlene Hooley



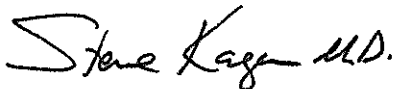
Steve Israel



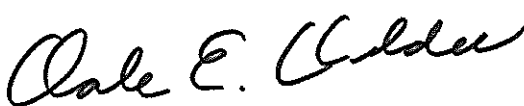
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.



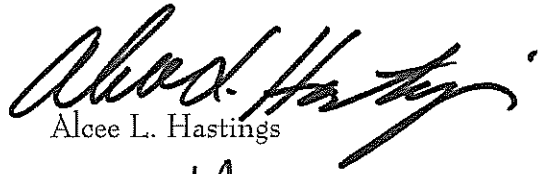
Timothy V. Johnson



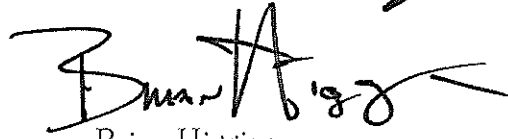
Steve Kagen



Dale E. Kildee



Alcee L. Hastings



Brian Higgins



Mazie K. Hirono



Michael M. Honda



Jay Inslee



Darrell E. Issa



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Walter B. Jones

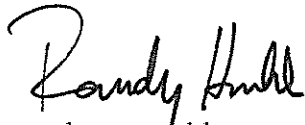


Patrick J. Kennedy



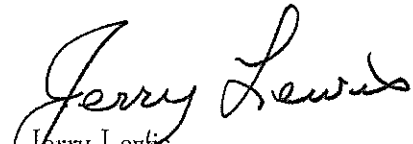
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick


Ron Klein


John R. Kuhl, Jr.


James R. Langevin


Rick Larsen


Jerry Lewis

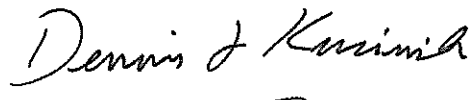

Daniel Lipinski

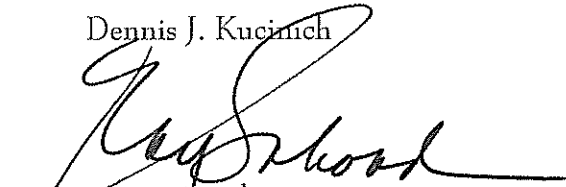

David Loeb sack


Nita M. Lowey

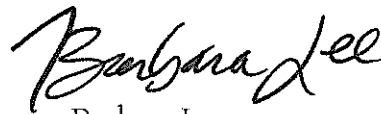

Tim Mahoney

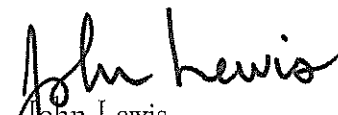

Donald Manzullo


Dennis J. Kucinich



Ray LaHood


Tom Lantos

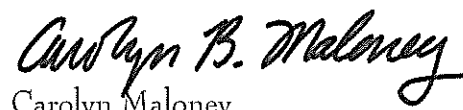

Barbara Lee


John Lewis


Frank A. LoBiondo


Zoe Lofgren


Stephen F. Lynch


Carolyn Maloney


Jim Marshall

Doris O. Matsui

Doris O. Matsui

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Thaddeus G. McCotter

Thaddeus G. McCotter

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Patrick T. McHenry

Patrick T. McHenry

John M. McHugh

John M. McHugh

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney

Michael R. McNulty

Michael R. McNulty

Martin T. Meehan

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Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

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Juanita Millender-McDonald

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Brad Miller

Brad Miller

George Miller

George Miller

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Dennis Moore

Dennis Moore

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran

Tim Murphy
Tim Murphy

Sue Myrick
Sue W. Myrick

Jerrold Nadler
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Richard E. Neal
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James L. Oberstar
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Stevan Pearce
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Ed Perlmutter
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David E. Price
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George Radanovich
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Nick J. Rahall, II
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Jim Ramstad
Jim Ramstad

David G. Reichert
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Silvestre Reyes

Ciro D. Rodriguez

Mike Ross

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Bobby L. Rush

Linda T. Sanchez

Jim Saxton

Bobby Scott

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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

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C. A. Dutch Ruppberger

John T. Salazar

Loretta Sanchez

Adam B. Schiff

David Scott

Christopher Shays

Heath Shuler

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Chris Smith

Christopher H. Smith

Vic Snyder

Vic Snyder

John M. Spratt, Jr.

John M. Spratt, Jr.

Ellen O. Tauscher

Ellen O. Tauscher

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson

Edolphus Towns

Edolphus Towns

Tom Udall

Tom Udall

Nydia M. Velazquez

Nydia M. Velazquez

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter

Lamar Smith

Lamar Smith

Hilda L. Solis

Hilda L. Solis

Cliff Stearns

Cliff Stearns

Gene Taylor

Gene Taylor

John F. Tierney

John F. Tierney

Mark Udall

Mark Udall

Chris Van Hollen


Chris Van Hollen

James T. Walsh


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Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters


Melvin L. Watt


Henry A. Waxman


Anthony D. Weiner


Jerry Weller

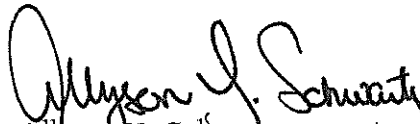

Robert Wexler



Roger F. Wicker


Heather Wilson


Joe Wilson


Lynn Woolsey


Allyson Y. Schwartz



Mike Doyle


Ike Skelton


Collin C. Peterson


Julia Carson


Kendrick B. Meek


Michael F. Doyle


Mark E. Souder


Albert R. Wynn

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable John A. Boehner, Minority Leader

Diane E. Watson

Diane Watson

Virgil Goode

Virgil H. Goode, Jr.

Charles W. Dent

Charles W. Dent

Russ Carnahan

Russ Carnahan

Nick Lampson

Nick Lampson

Jim Marshall

Jim Marshall

John Culberson

John Culberson

Charles W. Pickering

Charles W. Pickering

Terry Everett

Terry Everett

Dennis Rehberg

Dennis Rehberg

Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy

James P. Moran

James P. Moran

Ric Keller

Ric Keller

John Barrow

John Barrow