The Honorable Max Baucus
Chair, Finance Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Finance Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable John Dingell
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are writing to urge you to include a one-year extension of the moratorium on the Medicaid public provider and graduate medical education (GME) rules, which expires on May 25, 2008, in any end-of-year legislation that you intend to pass. Hospitals and states are being forced to take action now to prepare for these impending Medicaid cuts. It is therefore important for Congress to act this year to extend the original moratorium that was included in the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28).

These sweeping cuts circumvent Congress’ authority to set Medicaid policy, as well as both chambers’ strong bipartisan opposition to these rules. To date, 289 members of the House and 66 senators are on record in opposition to these cuts. The impact of these Medicaid rules on patient services, emergency preparedness, physician training, and state Medicaid programs would be devastating.

We strongly urge you to act now to stop these rules and to reaffirm Congress’ role in setting Medicaid policy for this country by including an extension of the Medicaid moratorium in an end-of-year legislative package. Our patients, providers, and Medicaid enrollees cannot wait until next year for us to take action.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator