

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
US House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Boehner:

Medicaid programs across the country are facing historic challenges, and they urgently need federal support. The undersigned groups urge you to include a substantial increase in the federal Medicaid match rate (FMAP) for states and localities. At this time, an FMAP increase of more than \$125 billion is a vital initial step in protecting against cuts in Medicaid. Such an investment not only recognizes Medicaid's counter-cyclical nature but also its role in promoting the health and independence of millions of Americans.

An increase in FMAP will need to be larger than \$125 billion in order to ensure that states have adequate resources to maintain eligibility, a full range of needed benefits and access to providers in these hard economic times. We support conditioning states' receipt of the increased federal investment on a pass through to local governments commensurate with their contributions to the non federal share and a robust maintenance of effort to protect against adverse changes in eligibility, benefits, provider payments or access to care.

Increasing the federal investment in state Medicaid programs is needed to prevent cuts in the program and is an important step to strengthen our economy over the long run. We look forward to working with you to secure a swift passage of an economic recovery package that substantially increases FMAP and maintains the integrity of the program against cuts.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Children and Families
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Health Care Association
American Hospital Association
Easter Seals
Medicaid Health Plans of America
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Counties
National Association of Public Hospitals
National Center for Assisted Living
National Rural Health Association
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Neighborhood Centers of America