

December 15, 2005

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations are writing to voice our concern about provisions being debated in the Reconciliation bill. On behalf of the 53 million Americans who rely on Medicaid for their health and long-term care supports and services, we urge the Conferees to reject all provisions that harm Medicaid beneficiaries. In particular, we strongly oppose the provisions of the House Reconciliation bill that would result in higher cost-sharing and fewer benefits for low-income Medicaid beneficiaries.

The Senate Reconciliation package does a significantly better job of protecting Medicaid beneficiaries by finding savings through efficiencies in Medicare and in the way that Medicaid pays for prescription drugs. The House package imposes unaffordable cost-sharing on, and allows benefit reductions for, America's most vulnerable seniors, children, people with disabilities, and working families. What is more, the bill fails to find any savings from Medicare or from the drug companies.

Congress now has the opportunity to take a stand for America's most vulnerable populations and reject all of the House provisions that harm low-income beneficiaries. The needs of millions of low-income children, seniors, people with disabilities and working families hang in the balance. We are depending on you to help shape a Reconciliation package that keeps health care accessible, affordable and comprehensive for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Alliance of Louisiana Developmental Centers Families & Friends  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Mental Retardation  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Diabetes Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Medical Student Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Asian American Justice Center  
Association for the Mentally Retarded at Agnews  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Beatrice State Development Center Family and Friends Association  
B'nai B'rith International  
Brain Injury Association  
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law  
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Center on Disability and Health  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Defense Fund  
Clearbrook Parents and Guardians Association  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Catalyst  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project/CHAMP  
Concerned Citizens For The Mentally Retarded  
Consumers Union  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals  
Dever Association for the Retarded, Inc.  
Disability Service Providers of America  
District of Columbia Primary Care Association  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Dixon Association For Retarded Citizens  
Easter Seals  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Families USA  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
Generations United  
Gray Panthers California  
Guttmacher Institute  
Health and Disability Advocates in Chicago  
HIV Medicine Association

Housing Works, Inc.  
Hudson Health Plan  
Human Rights Campaign  
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association  
Institute for Reproductive Health Access  
Jewish Association for Services for the Aged  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Legal Action Center  
March of Dimes  
Massachusetts Coalition of Families and Advocates for the Retarded  
Medicare Rights Center  
Mental Retardation Association of Utah  
Mount St. Joseph Association  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Health Advocacy Programs  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of People with AIDS  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council on Aging  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Mental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Respite Coalition  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Parent Hospital Association, Sonoma Developmental Center  
Parents & Friends of Hammond Developmental Center Association  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
ProCare3  
Project Inform  
Protestants for the Common Good  
Providence Health System  
RESULTS  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
St. Mary's Residential Training School  
State Associations of Addiction Services  
The Arc of the United States  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
Treatment Access Expansion Project  
UHCAN Ohio  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
USAction  
U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
Voices for America's Children  
Voice of the Retarded  
Welfare Law Center  
The Well Project