

May 4, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to oppose proposals that arbitrarily cut Medicaid and shift a fiscal burden to the states. Ultimately, the proposals would transfer the burden to seniors who depend on the program for long-term care, people with disabilities, communities of color and low-income women, children and families.

Such harmful cost shifting includes (1) converting the program to a block grant; (2) setting a cap on overall federal spending that inevitably results in reducing federal Medicaid spending over time; and (3) rolling back protections that currently ensure health coverage is not diminished. These cost-shifting proposals have little or nothing to do with containing health care spending. Rather, they simply shift the risk to states as health costs go up – and subsequently move the burden onto the shoulders of those who are least able to bear it.

We recognize the need to make responsible decisions about reducing the deficit. But capping Medicaid or converting the program into a block grant is not a real solution. Shifting the costs from the federal government to states and families does nothing to address the underlying problem of rising health care costs overall. We are eager to work with you to find smarter, more efficient ways to respond to budgetary problems.

Sincerely,

AARP
ACCSES
Advocates for Youth
Alliance for a Just Society
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association for Psychoanalysis
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Counseling Association
American Dental Education Association
American Diabetes Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Nurses Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Society on Aging
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
APSE
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Professional Chaplains
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Catholic Health Association of the U.S.
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Center for Rural Affairs
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund
CLASP
Coalition on Human Needs
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Action National Network (CANN)
Community Action Partnership
Community Catalyst
Community Organizations in Action
Community Transportation Association of America
Consumer Action
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of Administrators of Special Education
CWLA
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Direct Care Alliance
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Disciples Justice Action Network
Easter Seals
Evangelicals for Social Action
Families USA

Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
Health Care for America Now
Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA)
HIV Medicine Association
Institute for Public Health Innovation
International Parish Nurse Resource Center
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
LeadingAge
League of United Latin American Citizens
Learning Disabilities Association of America
LGBT Cancer Project - Out With Cancer
Main Street Alliance
Medicare Rights Center
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mental Health America
Metropolitan Community Churches and Global Justice Institute
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Urban Hospitals
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC)
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumer Voice for Quality, Long-Term Care
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Council on Aging

National Down Syndrome Congress
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Immigration Law Center
National Indian Health Board
National Medical Association
National Minority AIDS Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Physicians Alliance
National Respite Coalition
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Health Network
OWL - The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
Paralyzed Veterans of America
PHI – Quality Care *through* Quality Jobs
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness
Prescription Policy Choices
Progressive States Action
Project Inform
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition (REHDC)
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
RESULTS
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
School Social Work Association of America
SEIU
State Associations of Addiction Services
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.
Treatment Access Expansion Project
Treatment Communities of America
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
United Spinal Association
Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN)
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
VillageCare
Visiting Nurse Associations of America
Voices for America's Children
Volunteers of America
VOR – Speaking out for people with intellectual disabilities
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)