

September 8, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Reid, Senator McConnell, Madam Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner:

The undersigned organizations **urge you to pass a second stimulus measure which includes a temporary increase in the federal Medicaid match.** With Congress planning to adjourn by the end of September, timely action now will protect the health care of millions of vulnerable Americans and would be a prudent and responsive way to stimulate the economy.

The fiscal crisis confronting states poses an increasing risk to the health care services upon which tens of millions of America's children, seniors, people with disabilities and families depend. As of early August 2008, there are 13 states implementing or considering cuts that will eliminate or reduce health care services for low-income children and their families. As unemployment rises and the ranks of the uninsured grow, the pressure on safety net providers to provide uncompensated care increases. Cuts in eligibility in state Medicaid programs will add significant strain to hospital budgets and enlarge the cost-shift onto private insurance and families' health insurance premiums.

An increase in federal support for rising state Medicaid costs, a provision based on the successful 2003 bi-partisan legislation, is a proven and effective way to help protect the health care of millions of Americans. According to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, the 2003 Jobs and Growth Tax Relief, which included \$10 billion going directly to help state Medicaid programs, helped avert cuts and preserve Medicaid coverage for millions of vulnerable Americans and, in some cases, allowed cuts to be reversed.

What is more, an increase in the federal match for Medicaid is a potent economic stimulus. According to Mark Zandi, Chief Economist for Moody's Economy.com, a \$1 increase in federal Medicaid spending and grants to states would boost the GDP by \$1.36. This in turn protects and generates jobs, wages and business activity because of a new injection of funding into state budgets. States that receive a temporary increase in federal Medicaid match could see job, wage and economic growth as a result.

Congress should act before adjournment to protect and stimulate state economies, stabilize state budgets and help avert health care cuts. As in 2003, a short-term increase in federal support for state Medicaid programs could preserve coverage for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid. We urge you in the strongest terms possible to act quickly with a second stimulus that provides states with increased federal support for Medicaid and additional state aid.

Respectfully yours,

National Organizations

AFL-CIO
AFSCME
Alliance for Children and Families
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association on Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
American Association of Homes and Services for the
Aging (AAHSA)
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Counseling Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Humane Association
American Network of Community Options and
Resources
American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.
AMERIGROUP
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Child Care Law Center
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund (CDF)
Children's Dental Health Project
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Community Catalyst
Consumers Union
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Disabled Action Committee
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Families USA
First Focus
Foster Family-Based Treatment Association
Generations United
HIV Medicine Association
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
International Association of Firefighters
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
Jewish Guild for the Blind
Legal Action Center
LEAnet: Local Education Agencies Network
Lutheran Services in America
Mental Health America
Molina Healthcare, Inc.
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good
Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Councils on Developmental
Disabilities
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health
Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of People with AIDS
National Association of Private Special Education
Centers
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health
Systems
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of
Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of Urban Hospitals
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental
Health
National Foster Care Coalition
National Foundation for Mental Health
National Health Law Program (NHLP)

(National Cont)

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network for Youth
National Policy Partnership for Children of the
 Incarcerated
National Rural Health Association
National Women’s Law Center
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
OMB Watch
“OWL - The Voice of Midlife and Older Women”
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
RESULTS
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU
Social Security Disability Coalition
State Associations of Addiction Services
TII CANN – Title II Community AIDS National
 Network
The Aids Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Rebecca Project for Human Rights
United Cerebral Palsy
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Jewish Communities
United Neighborhood Centers of America
United Spinal Association
United Way of America
USAction
Voices for America’s Children
VOR – “Speaking out for people with mental
 retardation”
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women of Reform Judaism
Women’s Committee of 100
9to5, National Association of Working Women

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
 America
YWCA Central Alabama

Arizona

Arizona Advocacy Network
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Child and Family Resources, Inc
Children’s Action Alliance
Protecting Arizona’s Family Coalition
Touchstone Behavioral Health
Valle del Sol

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas Voices for Children and Caregivers

California

AIDS Project Los Angeles
Advanced Education Services
California Disability Service Association
California Hospital Association
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership
California Partnership
Children Now
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino
 County
Daughters of Mary and Joseph
Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services
Kinship Center
Jewish Family Service of LA
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
Ms. Wheelchair California Pageant, Inc.
No Barriers Disabled Access Consulting and Advocacy
 Services
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals
Project Inform, San Francisco
St. Joseph Health System
St. Mary’s Center
Supportive Parents Information Network, Inc.
Triad Family Services
Trinity Youth Services

Colorado

Colorado Association of Family and Children’s
 Agencies
Colorado Children’s Campaign
Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families
Colorado Progressive Action
Oral Health Awareness Colorado!
Turning Point Center for Youth and Family
 Development, Inc.

Connecticut

Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition
Collaborative Center for Justice
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
CT Voices for Children
Greater Bridgeport Section National Council of Jewish
 Women, Inc.
Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.
Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)
Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT
New Haven Legal Assistance Association
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut
The Village for Families and Children, Inc.

District of Columbia

Consortium for Child Welfare

Florida

Family Counseling Services of Greater Miami, Inc.
Family Service Centers, Inc.
Florida Consumer Action Network
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
Jacksonville Jewish Federation, Inc.
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater
Miami Jewish Federation
"OUR" CHILDREN FIRST
PAX Christi Northeast Florida
Providence Management Corporation of Florida
River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged

Georgia

Families First
GA Coalition to End Homelessness
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Living Room, Inc.
Project Adventure, Inc.
Women's Policy Group

Idaho

Cassia County
United Vision for Idaho

Illinois

Child Care Association of IL
Citizen Action/Illinois
Health and Disability Advocates
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Heartland Health Outreach
Heartland Human Care Services
Heartland International Health Center
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Methodist Youth Services, Inc.
Metropolitan Family Services
Project IRENE
The Baby Fold
Uhlich Children's Advantage Network
Voices for Illinois Children

Indiana

Family and Children's Center, Inc.
IARCCA, An Association of Children and Family
Services
Lampion Center
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
America
The Children's Campus

Iowa

Iowa Advocates for Mental Health Recovery (IAMHR)
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
Iowa State Association of Counties

Kentucky

Bellwood Presbyterian Home for Children
Boys' Haven
Campbell Lodge Boys' Home
Children's Alliance
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Mental Health America of Kentucky
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
America
Sunrise Children's Services

Maine

Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine People's Alliance

Maryland

AIDS Action Baltimore
Center for Children, Inc.
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland
Howard County
Maple Shade Youth & Family Services
Medicaid Matters! Maryland
Pathways, Inc.
Progressive Maryland
Project PLASE, Inc.
The Children's Guild
The Mental Health Center of Western Maryland, Inc.
Threshold Services, Inc.
Voices for Quality Care (LTC), Inc.

Massachusetts

Associated Early Care and Education, Inc.
Children's League of Massachusetts
Family Services of Central MA
Hebrew Senior Life
Independent Living Center of the North Shore & Cape
Ann, Inc
Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association
Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Division
Walker Home and School

Michigan

Catholic Caucus of Southeast Michigan
Center for Education of Women, University of Michigan
Center for Civil Justice
Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan
Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Michigan Citizen Action
Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization

Minnesota

Family & Children's Service
Jewish Community Center of Saint Paul
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and
the Dakotas
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Family Service of Saint Paul
Minneapolis Jewish Federation
Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Pillsbury United Communities
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
Ramsey County
Sholom Community Alliance (Minneapolis - Saint Paul)
United Jewish Fund & Council of Saint Paul

Missouri

Alliance for the Status of Missouri Women
Cornerstones of Care
Edgewood Children's Agency
Gillis Center
Jewish Community Relations Counsel of St. Louis
Missouri Budget Project
Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition

Montana

Big Sky Foster/Adoptive Parent Association
Montana Association of Counties
Montana State Foster Adoptive Parent Association

Nebraska

Boys Town
Center for People in Need
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public
Interest
YWCA Omaha

Nevada

Mojave Adult, Child and Family Services
Nevada Health Care Association
Nevada Women's Lobby
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
America

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance
NH Association of Counties
Belknap County

New Jersey

ACCSES New Jersey
Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities
(ABCD)
Alliance for Disabled in Action
Association for Children of New Jersey
Center for Family Services, Inc.
Family Planning Advocates of New York
Family Service Association of New Jersey
Family Voices – New Jersey
Jewish Family Service of Bergen County
Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey
Jewish Home at Rockleigh
Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service
Mental Health Association
Morristown Neighborhood House
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
Next Step
Ramsey County
Robins' Nest
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey

New Mexico

New Mexico Association of Counties Health Care
Affiliate
New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks
New Mexico PACE
New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

Baker Victory Services
CAPE/Samuel Field YM & YWHA
Child & Family Services
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens Advice Bureau
Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies
Communilife, Inc.
Community Healthcare Network
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
Family and Children's Association
Family Planning Advocates of New York State
Family Services, Inc.
Family Services League
Family Services of Westchester
FountainView at College Road
Greater New York Hospital Association
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)
Hillside Family of Agencies

(NY Cont)

Hope House Incorporated
Institute for Community Living, Inc. NY
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
Jewish Family Services of Ulster County
Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center, Inc.
Medicaid Matters NY
Medical Society of the State of New York
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
New York AIDS Coalition
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation
New York Health Plan Association
New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies
New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc.
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
New York State Health Facilities Association
NYC AIDS Housing Network
NYS Association of Family Service Agencies
Parsons Child & Family Guidance Center
Public Employees Federation
Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Social Justice Center Stony Brook University School of Social Work
Society of Jesus, NY Province
Spectrum Human Services
The Bridge Inc.
The City of New York
UJA – Federation New York
United Neighborhood Houses
West Side Campaign Against Hunger
Westchester Jewish Community Services
Women's City Club of New York

North Carolina

Action for Children North Carolina
Children and Family Services Association
McDowell County DSS
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
North Carolina Justice Center
The Crossnore School

North Dakota

Three Affiliated Tribes, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation
NDPeople.org

Ohio

Beech Brook
Cedar Village
Center for Community Solutions
Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio
Disability Policy Coalition
Noble County Job & Family Services
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Family Care Association
Ohio Provider Resource Association
Ohio Jewish Communities
Personal & Family Counseling Services of Tuscarawas Valley, Inc.
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of America
St. Joseph Orphanage

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Therapeutic Foster Care Association
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of America

Oregon

Cedar Sinai Park
Children First for Oregon
Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Mental Health America of Oregon
Oregon Action

Pennsylvania

Children's Home of Easton
County Commissioners Association of PA
Family Service Association of Bucks County
Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley
Family Services of Western PA
Jewish Family Service
Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania
Methodist Home for Children
PathWaysPA
Penn Action
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pressley Ridge
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services
United Way of Beaver County

Rhode Island

National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island
Chapter
Neighborhood Alliance of Pawtucket
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
RICORP
Ocean State Action

South Carolina

Growing Home Southeast, Inc.
R.I.S.E.
SC Association of Children's Homes and Family
Services
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
America

South Dakota

South Dakota Association of County Commissioners

Tennessee

Tennessee Citizen Action
Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare
The Black Children's Institute of Tennessee
TN Alliance for Children and Families

Texas

CHILDREN AT RISK
DePelchin Children's Center
Family Counseling and Children's Services
Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services
Houston Federation of Families for Children's Mental
Health
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of
America
TXS United Housing Program

Utah

Anti-Hunger Action Committee
Coalition of Religious Communities
Crossroads Urban Center
Disabled Rights Action Committee
Salt Lake Community Action Program

Vermont

Vermont Kin as Parents
Vermont Legal Aid, Inc.

Virginia

Monticello Area Community Action Agency
The Law Center for Children
The Up Center
Virginia Association of Counties

Washington

Building Changes (formerly AIDS Housing of
Washington)
Children's Alliance
Health Care Access
Jewish Family Service
Southeast Youth and Family Services
Washington Association of Local WIC Agencies –
WALWICA
Washington Community Action Network

West Virginia

Central WV Community Action Association, Inc.
Mental Health Association in the Greater Kanawha
Valley
West Virginia Citizen Action Group

Wisconsin

Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Family Services of Northeast WI
HIVictorious, Inc.
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations
PATH, Wisconsin, Inc.
Rogers Behavioral Health System, Inc.
St. Rose Youth and Family Center
Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's
Agencies
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wisconsin NOW