

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

We are writing to request swift action on a six month extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The signers of this letter include the lead sponsors of legislation to extend the FMAP increase, as well as legislators from states facing the most significant shortfalls in state funding.

As you know, FMAP is one of the most critical funding sources for states across the country. The enhanced FMAP that was originally enacted through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$87 billion to state Medicaid programs. This critical infusion of federal funding provided much-needed relief to states and territories facing extreme hardships in a faltering economy. That initial increase is currently set to expire December 31, 2010, but our states still need support in order to meet the elevated demand for Medicaid services.

Without this funding, our states will be forced to make severe cuts to Medicaid providers and benefits, and the ensuing budget shortfall would have grave consequences for school funding and other essential state programs. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimated that without an extension of state fiscal relief, state spending cuts could result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in both the public and private sectors. In an April 17 speech, Council of Economic Advisers Chair Christina Romer said that additional aid to states is "likely to be very effective" in raising income and employment. Moreover, without federal support for Medicaid programs, states and territories will not have the resources they need to successfully implement health reform.

The House and Senate have both passed legislation to extend this enhanced rate for six months, from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. We urge you to settle outstanding differences and get a final bill to the President for signature without further delay. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,









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