

September 8, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL ADDRESS

Re: Advocates seek help of New York Congressional Delegation to Fight Harmful Bush Medicaid Regulation and Secure Temporary Boost in Federal Medicaid Match as part of Stimulus Package.

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

As advocates and providers for the 4.1 million New Yorkers who rely on the Medicaid program, we need your support to prevent potentially devastating changes to Medicaid at the federal level. We are asking that Congress take the following actions immediately: First, enact a one-year moratorium on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed rule to cut federal reimbursements for services under Medicaid through Outpatient Clinics and Hospitals (Proposed Rule); and second, include in the second emergency supplemental stimulus package a temporary increase to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

We strongly urge you to support a one-year moratorium on CMS' Proposed Rule, which would narrow the definition of outpatient hospital services and limit Medicaid reimbursement under the hospital outpatient benefit to only those services covered by Medicare. These proposed changes could potentially result in the loss of over \$450 million in federal Medicaid dollars for New York State's clinic providers. A one-year delay to the Proposed Rule would provide much needed temporary fiscal relief.

Additionally, as Congress considers a second emergency supplemental stimulus appropriation package, we ask you to fight for the inclusion of a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) such as the proposal contained in H.R. 5268, which calls for a 2.95 percent FMAP boost for all states. This will ensure that continued healthcare services are available to low-income and disabled children and families. In the next fiscal year New York State is facing a budget deficit of \$5.4 billion and this gap is expected to grow to over \$24.4 billion in the following three years. It is even more important during this fiscal crisis to ensure that New York State's most vulnerable citizens are protected. A temporary 2.95 percent increase in FMAP would give New York State \$1.6 billion in fiscal relief so that it can continue to maintain services for and protect its most fragile residents.

We urge you to push for the enactment of a one-year moratorium on CMS' Medicaid Outpatient Proposed Rule, and to advocate for the inclusion of a temporary boost in the Medicaid federal share in a second emergency supplemental stimulus package before Congress adjourns on or about September 23. In the current trying economic times, New York State's low-income individuals and families as well as men, women and children with disabilities need your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

1199 SEIU & GNYHA Healthcare Education Project, George Gresham

Addiction Research and Treatment Corp., Robert E. Sage, Ph. D.
AIDS Community Resources of Western New York, Ron Silverio
AIDS Treatment Data Network, Inc., Kenneth Fornataro
Alcoholism Council of New York, Linnea A. Olsen
Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc., Seth P. Stein, Esq.
Aspire of Western New York, Thomas Sy
Association of Addiction Recovery Care Homes of NYS (AARCH), Beth Clark
Association of New York City Addiction Programs, Edward Ross
Astor Home for Children, James McGuirk, PhD
Bassett Healthcare, Barbara Marsala
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc., Harry S. Cook
Bronx AIDS Services, Jose M. Davila
Bronx Community Health Network, Katherine S. Lobach, MD
Brookhaven Hospital, Karen Shaughness, LCSW
Buffalo Prenatal- Perinatal Network, Inc., Constance M. Schweitzer
Capital Region BOCES, Kathy Martin, CSW
Catholic Diocese of Albany, NY, Martha Pofit
Center for Community Health and Education, Ana Jimenez-Bautista, LMSW
Center for Comprehensive Health Practice, Inc., David Hutson
Center for Disability Services, Alan Krafchin, MS, MPH
Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York, Susan M. Dooha, J.D.
Central Nassau Guidance & Counseling Services, Inc., Barbara Bartell
Central New York Alcohol and Drug Association (CNYADA), James Scordo
Central New York Services, Inc., John J. Warren
Cerebral Palsy and Handicapped Children's Association of Chemung County,
Mark Peters
Cerebral Palsy Association of Rochester, Brian C. Klafehn
Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country, Doris Chenier
Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Susan Constantino
Cerebral Palsy of Ulster County, Pamela Carroad
Children's Aid Society, Lisa B. Handwerker, MD, FAAP
Children's Health Fund, Deirdre Byrne
Citizen Advocates, Inc., Gregory I. Langdon
Coalition for Community Services, William Fusco
Coalition for the Homeless, Shelly Nortz
Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Phillip A. Saperia
Committee of Methadone Program Administrators of New York State, Inc.,
Henry Bartlett
Community Cradle - Maternal Infant Network, Lucy Pulitzer, PhD
Community Health Care Association of New York State, Darryl W. Ng
Community Healthcare Network, Catherine Abate
Consortium of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services (Finger Lakes region),

Robert Lebman
Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes, Nelson Acquilano
Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc.,
James P. Scordo, LMSW, CASAC
Daytop Village Inc., Greg Bunt, Ph. D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Sarah Church, PhD
East Hill Family Medical, Inc., Josephine M. Rose
Enable/UCP of Syracuse, Sara Wall-Bollinger
Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Susan Pedro
Farnham Family Services, Jeanne M. Unger
Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy, Inc., Mary Boatfield
Fiscal Policy Institute, Frank Mauro
Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, Denise K. Young
Glens Falls Hospital Behavioral Health Services, David A. Alloy, Ph.D.
Greenwich House, Inc., Roy Leavitt
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Soraya Elcock
Health & Welfare Council of Long Island, Gwen O'Shea
Healthcare Association of New York State, Daniel Sisto
HELP/Project Samaritan, Inc., John Cavallaro
HFM Prevention Council, Dorean Page
Hispanic Senior Action Council (HSAC), Arcadio Vazquez
Hope House Inc., Donald Smith
Horizon Health Services, Anne Constantino
Housing Works, Charles King
Hunger Action Network of New York State, Mark Dunlea
Huther-Doyle, Robert Lebman
Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., Suleika Cabrera Drinane
Jawonio, Inc., Paul Tendler
Jefferson County Public Health Service, Jean A. Bilow
Jewish Family Service, Marlene A. Schillinger
Kaleida Health, Beth Ladd
Lafayette Medical Management, Massimo Degiarde MD
Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc., Howard K. Hitzel, Psy.D.
Legal Action Center, Paul Samuels
Lewis County General Hospital, Eric R. Burch
Liberty Research Group, Calvin E. Twoguns
Long Island Health Access Monitoring Project (LIHAMP),
Rosemarie Guercia and Donna Kass
Lower Eastside Service Center, Herb Barish
Medicaid Matters New York, Denise Soffel
Mental Health Association in New York State, Glenn Liebman
Montefiore Medical Center Bronx New York, Donna Futterman, MD

Mountain View Prevention Services, Arlene S. Hall
Nassau Coalition of Chemical Dependency Providers, Patricia Hincken
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Charles Ingolia
New York AIDS Coalition, Matthew Lesieur
New York Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers, Inc. (ASAP),
John J. Coppola
New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Carl S. Young
New York Coalition for School-Based Health Centers, Chris Kjolhede, MD
New York Immigration Coalition, Adam Gurvitch
New York State Academy for Public Administration, William T. Tyrell
New York State Academy of Family Physicians, Jose M. David, MD
New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies,
Ann M. Hardiman
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Health Care, Lauri Cole
New York State Health Facilities Association, Richard J. Herrick
New York State Public Health Association, Martha Pofit
New York State Rehabilitation Association, Jeff Wise
New York Statewide Independent Living Council, (NYSILC), Brad Williams
New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Maria Alvarez
North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network, Julie Lawrence
North Country Children's Clinic, Janice L. Charles
North Country Freedom Homes, Inc., Greg Aldrich
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc., Penny A. Ingham
North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, Andrew Malekoff
Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood, Kathie Wunderlich
Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, Inc., Maria Guevara
Northern Tier Providers Coalition, Bill Bowman
NYSARC, Inc. (formerly The New York State Association for Retarded Children),
Ben Golden
Odyssey House, John Tivolacci
Parsons Child and Family Center, Audrey La Frenier, LCSW
Peninsula Counseling Center, Herbert E. Ruben
Phoenix Houses of Long Island, Norwig Debye-Saxinger
Phoenix Houses of New York, Norwig Debye-Saxinger
Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Reina Schiffrin
Planned Parenthood of the Mid-Hudson Valley, Clare Coleman
Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Paul Drisgula and Margaret Roberts
Planned Parenthood of Nassau County, JoAnn D. Smith
Planned Parenthood of New York City, Joan Malin
Planned Parenthood of Northern New York, Richard M. Bearup
Planned Parenthood of South Central New York, Debra Marcus
Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region, Carol Love

Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes, Scott Heyman
Planned Parenthood of Western New York, Karen J. Nelson
Primary Care Development Corporation, Ronda Kotelchuck
Prospect Child & Family Center, Arthur Larrie Gouge
Public Health Solutions, Ellen Rautenberg
Quality Consortium of Suffolk County, Mary Silberstein
Queens Village Committee for Mental Health for J-CAP, Inc., Thomas White, Jr.
Recovery Center, Izetta Briggs-Bolling
Recovery Net (Rochester area), Carl Hatch
Rochester Rehabilitation Center, Cindy Huether
Samaritan Medical Center, Thomas H. Carman
Samaritan Village, Roy Kears
Schoharie County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Norine Hodges
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Karen Schimke
Seaway Valley Council for Alcohol/Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc.,
Larry Calkins, CPP
Sound View Throgs Neck CMHC, Dr. Tom Beltzer
Spectrum Human Services, Bruce Nisbet
St. Elizabeth's Family Medicine Center, Nicole Cocomazzi
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Syracuse New York, Deborah G. Welch
Staten Island Ryan White HIV CARE Network, Paul Hatchett & Rev. Terry Troia
The Center for Policy, Advocacy & Education of the Mental Health Association of
New York City, Michael Friedman
The Family Group, Inc., Christopher Corbett
The Prevention Team, Douglas G. Terbeek
The Resource Center, Clark Poppleton
Therapeutic Communities Association of New York, Kathleen Riddle
UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Ronald Soloway
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Cayuga County, Inc, Richard M. Hansinger
United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County, Bob McGuire
Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Patricia A. McGeown
Upstate Cerebral Palsy, Louis B. Tehan
Urban Resource Institute, Robert E. Sage, PH. D.
Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc., Donald A. Drew
Westchester Disabled On the Move Inc., Melvyn R. Tanzman
Westchester Putnam Coalitions and Student Assistance, Ellen Morehouse
Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium, Giselle Jackman
Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center, Joseph LaCoppola