

Partnership for Medicaid Partnership for Medicaid

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Don Sundquist, Chairman
The Honorable Angus King, Vice-Chairman
Commission on Medicaid
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Governors Sundquist and King:

We are writing to introduce **the Partnership for Medicaid**, a group of safety net providers and other key organizations dedicated to preserving and improving the Medicaid program, and to share with you and the Medicaid Commission our core set of principles.

The Partnership is a non-partisan, nationwide coalition that is committed to strengthening Medicaid's long-term financial health and assuring that the program continues its crucial role as a safety net for our nation's most vulnerable populations. Although we represent a broad range of specific interests and points of view, we stand unified in our resolve to ensure that Medicaid continues its vital role as a strong safety net for vulnerable Americans. By working in a bipartisan manner with all levels of government and affected constituency groups, we seek to provide viable solutions to improve the quality and delivery of services, with the aim of constraining costs without undermining the program's fundamental goals.

The Partnership has consistently called for bipartisan action to strengthen and preserve Medicaid, and it hopes that the Medicaid Commission will provide a forum for an open and honest discussion of the program's challenges in a manner that is thoughtful, non-partisan and includes representation from affected communities and constituencies, including beneficiary and safety net provider groups and federal, state and local government representatives. Further, as the Commission considers potential reforms to Medicaid, we believe that any such effort should seek to preserve the federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage, and not reduce or eliminate the program's services or consumer protections.

We therefore hope that the Commission will look to the **Partnership for Medicaid** as a source of expertise and experience as it seeks ways to constrain Medicaid's costs while also improving the quality and delivery of its services. Accordingly, we stand willing to discuss ways to improve the Medicaid program with the Commission and its members, and to lend whatever assistance we can to this critically important effort.

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We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION OF CLINICIANS FOR THE UNDERSERVED
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
AFL-CIO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE
NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Enclosure: Partnership Principles and Background Materials