



National  
Association  
of Public  
Hospitals  
and Health  
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March 25, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell  
United States House of Representatives  
322 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH), I am writing in strong support of H.R. 5613, the *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008*. This legislation to extend or enact moratoria until April 2009 on seven of the harmful Medicaid regulations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is critical. These devastating Medicaid cuts circumvent Congress' authority to set Medicaid policy, as well as both chambers' strong bipartisan opposition to these regulations.

NAPH represents more than 100 safety net hospitals and health systems nationwide, including members in your home states of Michigan and Pennsylvania. NAPH member hospitals fulfill a unique and essential role in the health care system providing essential community services—such as trauma, neonatal intensive care and burn care—to everyone in the community while ensuring health care access and services to all individuals, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Public hospitals keep people and communities healthy, know how to best serve at-risk populations and spread best medical practices to improve patient outcomes and control costs. NAPH members also serve as the training grounds for the country's next generation of physicians.

The Medicaid regulations of specific concern to NAPH members include: the public provider cost limit rule, graduate medical education rule and hospital outpatient services rule. We are particularly appreciative that H.R. 5613 extends the existing moratorium on the first two rules and implements a moratorium on the outpatient rule. It is essential for Congress to act before the existing moratorium expires on May 25 to prevent the devastating policy from taking effect.

Thank you for intervening and taking a leadership role in stopping CMS from implementing these Medicaid rules. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Gage  
President