

**March of Dimes Foundation**

**Office of Government Affairs**  
1146 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone (202) 659-1800  
Fax (202) 296-2964

[marchofdimes.com](http://marchofdimes.com)  
[nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org)

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of more than 3 million volunteers and 1,400 staff nationwide of the March of Dimes Foundation, I want to thank you for sponsoring the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, H.R. 5613. The March of Dimes wholeheartedly supports placing a one year moratoria on Medicaid regulations that would harm beneficiaries. In particular, the Foundation is eager to address the regulation to cut funding for Targeted Case Management (TCM) services, which play a key role in providing access to healthcare for high risk pregnant women and infants and children with complex medical needs.

As you know, TCM allows states the option to cover services “to assist beneficiaries in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services, and coordinating that care.” For example, some of the services provided under TCM include:

- Development of an individualized plan of care for prenatal case management. services for at risk pregnant women.
- Assistance in locating specialty providers who accept Medicaid and who are located near the beneficiary.
- Referral to tobacco cessation counseling for pregnant women.
- Help in obtaining needed medical equipment and supplies, such as wheelchairs, often needed by children with disabilities who were born with birth defects or have long term consequences of premature birth.

The TCM rule promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) goes beyond the savings Congress approved for TCM in the Deficit Reduction Act and cuts Medicaid funding to states for TCM by \$1.28 billion over 5 years — putting at risk the availability of TCM services for some of the most medically compromised Medicaid beneficiaries, including women with problem pregnancies and infants and children with special healthcare needs. For these reasons, the March of Dimes strongly supports placing a one year moratoria on this rule to prevent the harmful impact this rule would have on beneficiaries while Congress, CMS and other key stakeholders determine a more appropriate policy on TCM.

Again, the March of Dimes thanks you for your leadership on this important issue, and our volunteers and staff look forward to working with you to improve the health of pregnant women, infants and children.

Sincerely,



Marina L. Weiss, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy  
and Government Affairs

