



May 17, 2012

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
S230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senators Reid and McConnell:

We write to urge immediate Senate consideration of H.R. 5652- Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act. If signed into law, this legislation would give Illinois the ability to make desperately needed changes to its Medicaid program by repealing the Medicaid Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement that was included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Repealing the Medicaid MOE would give Illinois the flexibility it needs to move forward with the implementation of income verification requirements that are allowed under state law, but are currently impossible under federal law. The state legislature adopted income verification requirements, on a bipartisan basis, as a way to reduce fraud in an overburdened system. Repealing the Medicaid MOE allows the State of Illinois to proceed with this important program integrity measure.

Without immediate changes to the Medicaid program, Illinois's state budget will continue to face ever-growing budget deficits. In January, the Civic Federation released *State of Illinois FY2013 Budget Roadmap: State of Illinois Budget Overview, Projections and Recommendations for the Governor and Illinois General Assembly*, an eye-opening report illustrating the dire fiscal situation Illinois will find itself in should it not take the necessary steps to reform Medicaid. Among the report's findings were that Medicaid is projected to increase by more than 40% over the next five years- costing our state \$12.1 billion in 2017. The report also projected Medicaid's costs will increase Illinois' total unpaid bills total to \$34.8 billion. Unless Illinois is given the flexibility to make changes, this program will continue to wreck havoc on an already troubled budget.

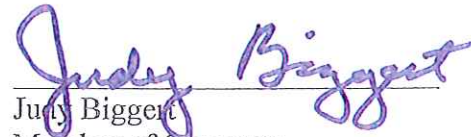
In addition to the Medicaid MOE requirement, the health law also expanded Medicaid eligibility to 133% of the federal poverty level. While the federal government will pay 100% of the costs for "newly eligible" beneficiaries, it will only do so for the first years of the expansion. Starting in 2017, Illinois will be required to provide a 5% match which grows to 10% in 2020 and beyond. Furthermore, Illinois is required to pay the costs of "previously eligible" beneficiaries- individuals who were formerly eligible for Medicaid but did not enroll. The Civic Foundation estimates this population will add an additional \$136-224 million in Medicaid costs.

A repeal of the Medicaid MOE will give Illinois' governor and state legislature added flexibility as they consider ways to close the \$2.7 billion hole in the state's Medicaid system.

We urge you to bring this vital legislation before the full Senate. Thank you for your attention to this important manner.

Sincerely,


Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

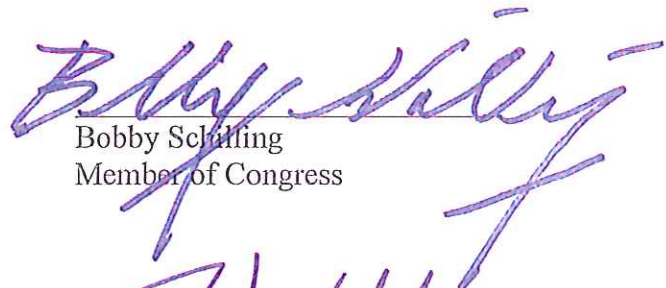

Robert Dold
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress


Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

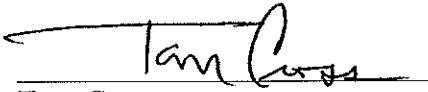

Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress


Peter Roskam
Member of Congress


Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress


Joe Walsh
Member of Congress



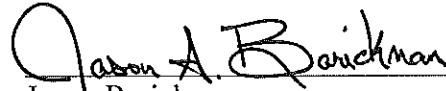
Tom Cross
House Republican Leader



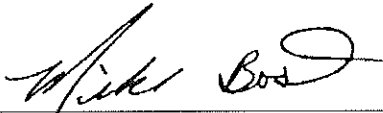
Patricia R. Bellock
Illinois State Representative



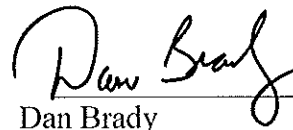
David R. Leitch
Illinois State Representative



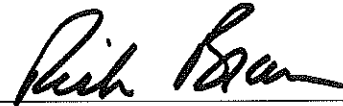
Jason Barickman
Illinois State Representative



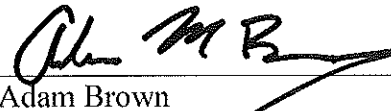
Mike Bost
Illinois State Representative



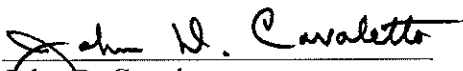
Dan Brady
Illinois State Representatives



Rich Brauer
Illinois State Representative



Adam Brown
Illinois State Representative



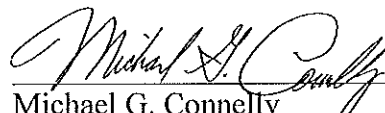
John D. Cavaletto
Illinois State Representative



Franco Coladipietro
Illinois State Representative



Sandy Cole
Illinois State Representative



Michael G. Connelly
Illinois State Representative




James Durkin
Illinois State Representative



Paul Evans
Illinois State Representative



Michael Fortner
Illinois State Representative



Kent Gaffney
Illinois State Representative



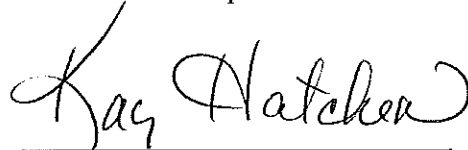
Brad E. Halbrook
Illinois State Representative



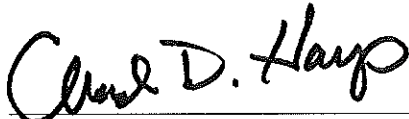
Norine Hammond
Illinois State Representative



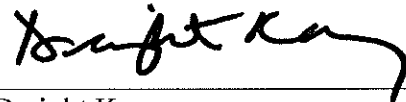
David Harris
Illinois State Representative



Kay Hatcher
Illinois State Representative



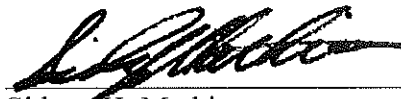
Chad Hays
Illinois State Representative



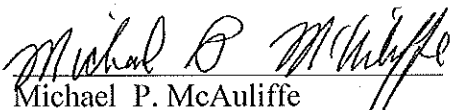
Dwight Kay
Illinois State Representative



Renee Kosel
Illinois State Representative



Sidney H. Mathias
Illinois State Representative



Michael P. McAuliffe
Illinois State Representative



Bill Mitchell
Illinois State Representative



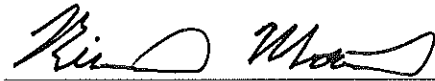
Jerry L. Mitchell
Illinois State Representative



Donald L. Moffitt
Illinois State Representative



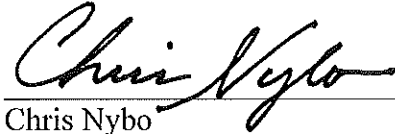
Thomas Morrison
Illinois State Representative



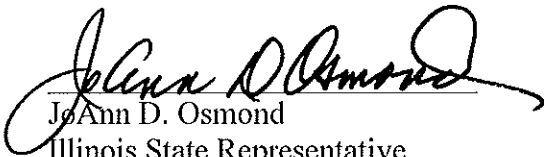
Richard Morthland
Illinois State Representative



Rosemary Mulligan
Illinois State Representative



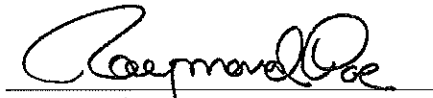
Chris Nybo
Illinois State Representative



JoAnn D. Osmond
Illinois State Representative



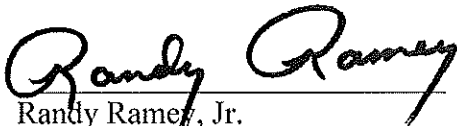
Sandra M. Pihos
Illinois State Representative



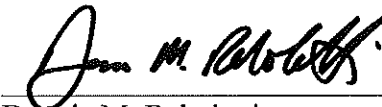
Raymond Poe
Illinois State Representative



Robert W. Pritchard
Illinois State Representative



Randy Ramey, Jr.
Illinois State Representative



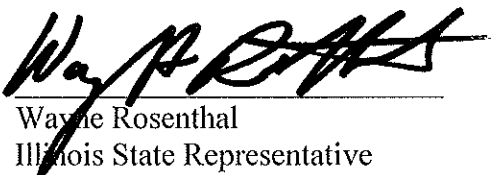
Dennis M. Reboletti
Illinois State Representative



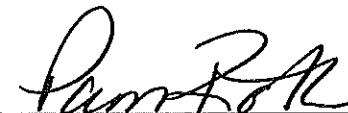
David Reis
Illinois State Representative



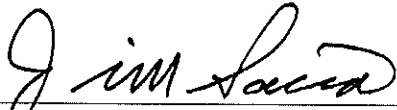
Chapin Rose
Illinois State Representative



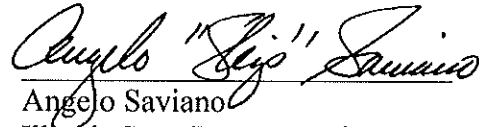
Wayne Rosenthal
Illinois State Representative



Pam Roth
Illinois State Representative



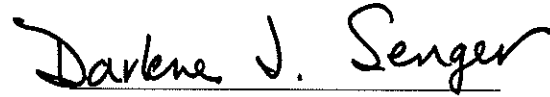
Jim Sacia
Illinois State Representative



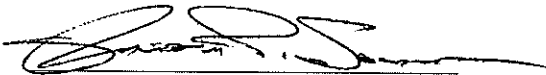
Angelo Saviano
Illinois State Representative



Timothy L. Schmitz
Illinois State Representative



Darlene Senger
Illinois State Representative



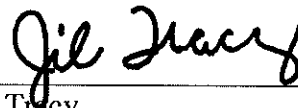
Keith P. Sommer
Illinois State Representative



Joe Sosnowski
Illinois State Representative



Ed Sullivan, Jr.
Illinois State Representative



Jil Tracy
Illinois State Representative



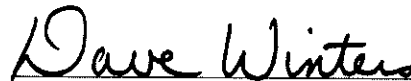
Michael W. Tryon
Illinois State Representative



Michael Unes
Illinois State Representative



Jim Watson
Illinois State Representative



Dave Winters
Illinois State Representative

CC: Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator
CC: Mark Kirk, U.S. Senator