



CALIFORNIA
STATE
ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES



COUNTY
WELFARE
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

April 15, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) request that you for cosponsor the bipartisan "Economic Recovery in Health Care Act of 2008" (S. 2819). The measure would place a one-year moratorium on seven administration-imposed Medicaid regulations that would shift costs to states and counties and reduce benefits to many Medicaid recipients. The bill would also provide a temporary boost in the federal match for Medicaid, as well as establish a temporary state fiscal relief package.

The regulations proposed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reverse long-standing Medicaid policies and eliminate federal payments for a variety of critical Medicaid functions. The vast majority of these proposals are not responding to new federal law changes. Rather, HHS is implementing, through the regulatory process, policy changes that Congress rejected previously when HHS proposed them as legislation.

California recently estimated that the combined impact of the regulations would shift over \$2.1 billion in costs to the State and its counties the first year alone, and would shift over \$10.7 billion over five years. This shift would occur at the same time as the State is grappling with a \$14 billion to \$16 billion budget shortfall. The Senate bill and a similar bill pending in the House (H.R. 5613) will provide state and county governments with some much needed temporary relief.

On behalf of CSAC and CWDA, we urge your support of S. 2819. If your staff has any questions about this request, please have them contact Tom Joseph, Washington representative for both associations, at tj@wafed.com or 202.898.1444.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul McIntosh in black ink.

Paul McIntosh
Executive Director
CSAC

Handwritten signature of Frank Mecca in black ink.

Frank Mecca
Executive Director
CWDA