

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sullivan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
434 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin and Congressman Sullivan:

The undersigned national and state organizations write today in strong support of HR 4787, the Medicaid Services Restoration Act of 2010. This legislation will help ensure that vital Medicaid services and options are protected for vulnerable populations such as the children and youth involved in our nation's child welfare and foster care systems, individuals with disabilities, and children and adults with mental illness.

Before they walk through the service delivery door, many of these children have been exposed to multiple traumas, including domestic violence, physical and emotional abuse, neglect, community violence, and exposure to other risk factors such as parental mental health problems, substance abuse, and poverty.

In 2007 and 2008, the previous Administration issued a series of Medicaid regulations that in the aggregate would have devastated our nation's health safety net for the above mentioned populations. The regulations would have greatly restricted access to services and in some cases, shut off access completely. The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion, acknowledged the regulations' negative impact and controversial nature and enacted moratoria on several of the Medicaid regulations. The current Administration has wholly or partially rescinded these harmful regulations since taking office. Your legislation is necessary to clearly define and protect these Medicaid options by codifying language reflecting Congressional intent.

A critical and forward-moving piece of HR 4787 is its creation of a medical assistance option for direct billing of medically necessary therapeutic (or treatment) foster care services, the evidence- informed and highly effective placement for children and youth with serious medical, psychological, emotional and social needs known as TFC. Recommended in the 1999 U.S. Surgeon General Report on Mental Health as an effective intervention, TFC results in positive outcomes relating to the child's behavior and to maintaining permanency. TFC provides services to approximately 50,000 foster children with severe mental and behavioral health needs in a community-based environment.

While states often rely currently on a patchwork of funding for TFC, creation of a medical assistance category within Medicaid for TFC would improve the quality of care for these children and youth by offering a streamlined, transparent system of reimbursement. Such a service category would help ensure access to needed clinical treatment services, utilizing clinically validated programs and evidence informed treatment protocols which are individualized for each child or youth.

Among other key provisions, the legislation would permit states to use reasonable and efficient payment methodologies for TFC, Medicaid rehab and TCM services, including the use of capitated rates for treatment services.

The undersigned organizations thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program and to protecting vulnerable children's and youths' access to vital Medicaid services and options. We look forward to working with you to see this legislation move forward in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations:**

Advantage Behavioral Health  
Alliance for Children and Families  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Children's Residential Centers (AACRC)  
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Humane Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
Anxiety Disorders Association of America  
Association of Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.  
Centerstone of America  
Centerstone Research Institute (TN)  
Children's Defense Fund  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition on Human Needs  
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services  
Every Child Matters Education Fund  
Family Preservation Community Services (FPCS)  
First Focus  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
FosterClub  
KidsPeace National Centers  
Kinship Center  
LEA net (A national coalition of local education agencies)  
Lutheran Services in America  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Foster Care Coalition  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
National Youth Advocate Program  
Necco Family of Services  
North American Council on Adoptable Children  
PATH Alliance  
Phoenix Homes  
Providence Service Corp.  
Rescare  
SAFY of America, Inc.  
The Arc of the United States  
The Bair Foundation  
The MENTOR Network  
The Rebecca Project  
Therapeutic Communities of America  
UCAN BE THE CHANGE

United Cerebral Palsy  
United Neighborhood Centers of America  
Voice for Adoption

**State Organizations:**

Adolescent & Family Growth Center, Inc (VA)  
Adoption and Foster Care Alliance of New Mexico  
Alliance For Children, Inc. (WV)  
Alston Wilkes Society Therapeutic Foster Care (SC)  
Alternative Family Services (CA)  
Anew Adoption Agency (NM)  
Arrow Child & Family Ministries (TX)  
Bethany Christian Services, Georgia (GA)  
Boys' and Girls' Haven (KY)  
Braley & Thompson, Inc. (WV and VA)  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Association of Counties  
Camelot Care Centers, Inc. of Illinois  
Camelot Community Care, Inc. (FL, OH, TX)  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans  
Centers for Youth and Families (AR)  
Centerstone of Indiana  
Centerstone of Tennessee  
Child Care Association of Illinois  
Childhaven, Inc. (NM)  
Children and Family Services Association of North Carolina  
Children's Home Society of West Virginia  
Children's Action Alliance (AZ)  
Children's Alliance of Kentucky  
Children's Coalition of Indiana  
Children's Home Society of NC  
Children's Home Society of WA  
Children's Home Society of West Virginia  
Children's League of Massachusetts  
Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley (NY)  
Choices and Changes Youth Services (KY)  
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services (NY)  
Colorado Association of Family and Children's Agencies (CAFCA)  
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland  
Community Health & Counseling Services (ME)  
Community Link, Inc (NC)  
Community Services Group (Mountville, PA)  
Community Support Service, LLC (NC)  
Connecticut Association of Nonprofits  
Council for Children's Rights (NC)  
Counseling Services of Eastern Arkansas  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Creative Community Services, Inc. (GA)  
Crossroads Programs, Inc. (NJ)  
Denali Family Services (Alaska)  
Dockside Services of Indiana and Michigan  
EMQ FamiliesFirst (CA)  
Families & Youth Inc. (NM)  
Families and Children Together (ME)  
Family Advocacy Services of Virginia, Inc. (VA)

Family Care Network, Inc. (San Luis Obispo, CA)  
Family Pride Foundation (NM)  
Family Service of Rhode Island (RI)  
Family Works, Inc. (WI)  
For Children's Sake of Virginia, Inc.  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association - VA Chapter  
Four County Counseling Center (IN)  
GA Family Services (NY)  
Gateway Family and Child Services (AL)  
Georgia Alliance for Treatment Services (GATS)  
Growing Home Southeast, Inc. (SC)  
Helping Other Peoples Enrichment, Inc. (VA)  
High Desert Family Services (NM)  
Human Services Consultants, LLC (AZ)  
IARCCA, An Association of Children & Family Services (IN)  
Inner Circle Foster Care and Adoption Services (CA)  
Jewish Child & Family Services (IL)  
Kennedy Krieger Institute (MD)  
Kentucky Children's Alliance  
Kids At the Crossroads (TX)  
La Familia, Inc (NM)  
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois  
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Missouri  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest (WA)  
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota  
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan, Inc.  
Maple Star Services of Colorado  
Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers  
McKinley Children's Center (CA)  
Meritan, Inc. (TN, GA, MS, AR)  
Mid-South Health Systems/TODAY (AR)  
Missouri Alliance for Children and Families  
Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies  
Monroe Community Mental Health Authority (MI)  
Montana Children's Initiative  
Montana Community Services, Inc.,  
Morrison Child and Family Services (OR)  
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families  
New York Council of Family & Child Caring Agencies  
New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children  
Northern Virginia Family Service (VA)  
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA)  
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers  
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy  
Oklahoma Therapeutic Foster Care Association  
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Phoenix Institute (IN)  
Rebekah Children's Services (Gilroy, CA)  
Regional Youth Service, Inc. (IN)  
Remi Vista, Inc. (Redding, CA.)  
Rhode Island Council of Resource Providers  
Saint Vincent Home for Children (St. Louis, MO)  
SeaView Community Services (Alaska)  
South Carolina Youth Advocate Program

South Community-The Archway Network (OH)  
Southern Oregon Adolescent Study and Treatment Center (OR)  
St. Jude's Ranch For Children (TX and NV)  
Stanford Home for Children (Sacramento, CA)  
Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations  
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (MD)  
The Bridge Program (GA)  
The Children's Community Programs of Connecticut, Inc.  
The Children's Home Treatment Foster Care (MD)  
The Up Center (VA)  
The Village Network (OH)  
Thompson Child & Family Focus (NC)  
Three Rivers Adoption Council (PA)  
Touchstone Behavioral Health (AZ)  
Triad Family Services  
Triad Treatment Homes, Inc. (NC)  
Turning Point Homes, Inc. (NC)  
Walden Family Services, Inc. (CA)  
We Care Child & Family Services (KY)  
Western Montana Mental Health Center  
WI Assn of Family & Children's Agencies  
Wings of Refuge, Parmdale (CA)  
Woodfords Family Services (MD)  
Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (MT)  
Youth Focus, Inc. (NC)  
Youth Law Center (CA)  
Youthville (KS)