

September 8, 2009

Majority Leader Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
235 Canon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Max Baucus
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Henry Waxman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Baucus and Chairman Waxman:

We, the undersigned organizations, support Congress and the Administration's efforts to advance health care reform and urge you to **simplify Medicaid** eligibility by connecting it to the federal poverty level.

This change is vitally important to protect the health and wellbeing of low-income families and people with disabilities. Under current policy, single adults with chronic but not disabling conditions, parents separated from their children, and young adults leaving the foster care system are among the examples of people who often do not qualify for Medicaid. We also know that these populations have multiple chronic medical and mental health and substance use conditions and that Medicaid provides the types of services that they need.

In addition, to reap the full benefits of expanding Medicaid coverage to vulnerable, low-income people, it is essential that **community service providers are able to receive Medicaid reimbursement for coordinated health services including primary health care and mental health and addiction treatment services.**

Once an individual or family has Medicaid coverage, service providers must be able to receive reimbursement for all the services they need. To be effective, these services must be provided in an individualized and coordinated manner.

We are encouraged by the progress made on reforming our health care system and hope improving access and quality of care for our most vulnerable Americans is a top priority as the debate moves forward. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,