384 National and Local Organizations Urge House Leaders to Hold Children Harmless In FY 2012 Budget

April 13, 2011

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Ryan, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

As organizations dedicated to ensuring that all our nation's children get the health care services they need and deserve, we are writing to urge you to protect children's health coverage in the FY 2012 Budget Resolution. We are deeply concerned about the committee's proposal to drastically reduce funding for the Medicaid program, particularly if it is accompanied by *any* weakening of the coverage and protections currently guaranteed to children. Medicaid plays an essential role in securing the health and well-being of almost 30 million children, especially as families continue to struggle with the downturn in the economy. As the committee considers its budget priorities for the coming year, we urge you to hold children harmless.

Together with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid has been enormously successful in providing access to health services for one-third of our nation's children. From vaccinations, well-child check-ups, and chronic disease management, to oral health and vision care, Medicaid ensures that children get the services they need to grow, develop, and go to school ready to learn. By every measure, Medicaid is a cost-effective and essential lifeline for children, who constitute about 50 percent of the beneficiaries, but only about 20 percent of the costs.

While we recognize that the current budget climate requires congressional attention, it is important to understand that cutting care to children could actually have the effect of increasing costs, both in health and in other sectors. Block granting Medicaid would not only jeopardize coverage for millions of children, it would also result in cost-shifting that would place an even greater burden on states, localities, providers, and families. In addition, the committee's proposal would have a major impact on job growth and business activity, particularly within the health sector. Finally, the proposed cuts would have a compounded negative impact on states, since a reduction in state funding for CHIP, Medicaid, or both of those programs translates to a significant loss of federal matching funds, leaving states with far fewer resources to provide necessary care.

Instead of draconian cuts that will disrupt health care coverage for millions of American children, we urge the committee to seek more efficient, cost-effective ways to address the budget deficit. Keeping children healthy is not just the right thing to do, it is critical if our nation is to have a workforce that is healthy and prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

In the spirit of the bipartisanship that has sustained and improved children's health coverage for more than four decades, we urge you to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the important gains won for children's coverage are protected even during these challenging economic times. Our nation cannot afford to shortchange the health of our most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Adopt America Network

Advocacy for Patients with Chronic Illness, Inc.

Alliance for Children and Families

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Association of School Administrators

American Association on Health and Disability

American Dental Education Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Orthopsychiatric Association

Anxiety Disorders Association of America

Ardinger Consultants & Associates

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism National Committee (AutCom)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Axler & Associates

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.

Center for Public Representation

Center for Rural Affairs

Charles Drew University

Child Welfare League of America

Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Health Fund

Children's Sanctuary

Clinical Social Work Guild 49

Coalition to End Childhood Trauma

Coastal Harbor

Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf

Council for Exceptional Children

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Dab the AIDS Bear Project

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Disciples Justice Action Network

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)

Doctors for America

Easter Seals

Every Child Matters Education Fund

Families First, Inc.

Family Preservation Community Services

Family Voices

First Focus

Forum for Youth Investment

Foster Family-based Treatment Association

Generations United

Health & Disability Advocates

Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Foundation International

IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)

International Essential Tremor Foundation

Jewish Council For Public Affairs

Kids With Heart National Association for Children's Heart Disorders, Inc.

KidsPeace Corporation

KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia

Learning Disabilities Association of America

MomsRising

National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

National Assembly of School-Based Health Care

National Association for Children of Alcoholics

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association for Rural Mental Health

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disorders Directors

National Association of County Human Services Administrators

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

National Council of Jewish Women

National Education Association

National Empowerment Center, Inc.

National Foster Parent Association

National Foundation for Mental Health

National Health Foundation

National Health Law Program

National Indian Child Welfare Association

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities

National Respite Coalition

National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation

National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.

Necco

New England Consortium

New England Alliance for Children's Health, Community Catalyst

North American Council on Adoptable Children

Northeast Iowa Center for Independent Living

Nurse-Family Partnership

Physician-Parent Caregivers

PICO National Network

Pressley Ridge

ResCare

RESULTS

School Social Work Association of America

School Social Work Association of America & Learning Disabilities Association of America

Seraaj Family Homes, Inc

Southern Poverty Law Center

St. Margaret's Center/Catholic Charities of L.A.

TASH

The Arc of the United States

The Children's Dental Health Project

The Children's Partnership

The Jewish Federations of North America

The National Center on Family Homelessness

The National Crittenton Foundation

Three Rivers Independent Living Corporation

Union for Reform Judaism

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

Voice for Adoption

Voices for America's Children

WIC (Women, Infants, Children food program)

Local Organizations:

Alabama

Christian Services for Children in Alabama, Inc.

EngAGE

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Western Arkansas Therapeutic Children's Homes

Arizona

Arizona Autism Coalition

Arizona Council of Human Service Providers

Foundation for Senior Living

Human Services Consultants

Touchstone Behavioral Health

California

Aldea Children & Family Services

Alpha Treatment Centers

Alternative Family Services

Angel Harvest

Be Well Now Bodyworks

California Action for Healthy Kids

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Children's Hospital Association

California Hospital Medical Center

California Medical Association

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California Primary Care Association

California Respite Association

California School Health Centers Association

California State Association of Counties

Center for Oral Health

Children Now

Children's Defense Fund - California

Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County

Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

CHOC Children's Hospital

Clinica Sierra Vista

Community Health Councils

County Welfare Directors Association of California

De Novo Health Care, Inc

Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center

Family Care Network, Inc.

Family Voices of California

Flour

Futuro Infantil Hispano, FFA

Health Access

Home Assembly Church

Imperial Valley Food Bank

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Korean Resource Center

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

Latino Family Institute

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Los Angeles Professional Health & Wellness

Maternal and Child Health Access

Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach

Minority Health Institute

Mission Focused Solutions

Nutritional Science, California State University

SFUSD

St. John's Well Child & Family Center

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities

The Positive Results Corporation

USC School of Social Work

Valley Community Clinic

Watts Healthcare Corporation

Worksite Wellness Los Angeles

Yolo Community Health Initiative

Colorado

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families

Colorado Respite Coalition

Connecticut

Children’s Community Programs of Connecticut

Connecticut Association for Human Services

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.

Connecticut Parent Power

Connecticut Voices for Children

Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut

Greater Hartford Legal Aid

Independence Northwest, Inc.

New Haven Legal Assistance Association

District of Columbia

Consortium for Child Welfare

DC Primary Care Association

Florida

ARC Project Thrive

Cope Center North

Famil Care Council Area 9

Florida Coalition for Children

Florida Legal Services, Inc.

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System Child Care Services

The Children's Campaign

The Family Cafe

The Guardian Angel Preschool

Georgia

2nd African Methodist Episcopal Church

BAIN, Inc. Center for Independent Living

Elks Aidmore, Inc.

Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children

Georgia MENTOR

Voices for Georgia's Children

Hawaii

Family Voices of Hawaii

Good Beginnings Alliance

Iowa

Child and Family Policy Center

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Edgerton Women's Health Center

Iowa Citizen Action Network

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Iowa Primary Care Association

Iowa Public Health Association

Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

League of Human Dignity

Marion County Public Health

National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter

Off to a Good Start Coalition

Orchard Place

Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

Idaho

LIFE, Inc.

Illinois

Camelot Care Centers, Inc

Child Care Association of Illinois

Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living

Indiana

Family Voices Indiana

IARCCA, an Association of Children & Family Services

Phoenix Institute

Kansas

Children's Alliance

Kentucky

Audubon Area Head Start

Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children

Brooklawn Child & Family Services

Children's Alliance of Kentucky

Covering Kentucky Kids and Families

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Kentucky Youth Advocates

New Pathways for Children

Sarah's Place Women's Resource Center

St. Joseph Children's Home

Louisiana

Health Law Advocates of Louisiana

Massachusetts

Children's League of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland

Homeless Persons Representation Project

Maryland Assembly on School Based Health Care

Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.

Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform

Montgomery Health Care Action

Public Justice Center

Maine

Families And Children Together

Michigan

Agile-Enterprise Group LLC

Michigan Federation for Children and Families

Michigan League for Human Services

Michigan Oral Health Coalition

Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan's Children

Michuhcan

Minnesota

Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies

Missouri

Partnership for Children

Mississippi

Mississippi Center for Justice

Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities

New Dimensions PALS

Public Policy Center of Mississippi

Rosemary's Daycare and Learning Center

Southern Echo, Inc.

Montana

ADAPT Montana

North Carolina

Benchmarks

Brynn Marr Hospital

Cardinal Clinic, LLC

Caring Family Network

Children's Home Society of North Carolina

Community Support Agency

Green Light Counseling

Monarch

The Children's Home

Thompson Child & Family Focus

Triad Treatment Homes, Inc.

North Dakota

Community Action Partnership Head Start/Early Head Start

Nebraska

Apex Foster Care

Kolb Foundation for Disability Education

Voices for Children in Nebraska

New Hampshire

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of NJ

The Winning Angel Organization

New Mexico

Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers

Brain Injury Association of New Mexico

ENMRSH, Inc.

EnSuenos y Los Angelitos Development Center

La Familia, Inc.

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

New Mexico Voices for Children

Southwest Women's Law Center

Tresco, Inc.

New York

Community Service Society

Family Focus Adoption Services

GA Family Services

Inwood House

New York Council on Adoptable Children

New York Immigration Coalition

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

Westchester Children's Association

Ohio

A New Leaf, Inc.

Agape for Youth, Inc.

Beech Brook

Family Voices of Ohio

Hittle House

Lighthouse Youth Services

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies

Ohio Poverty Law Center

Parmadale Institute

Respite Connections, Inc.

Safehouse Ministries, Inc.

The Children's Center of Ohio, Inc.

The Children's Home of Cincinnati

The Village Network

Oklahoma

Aunt Nette's Daycare & Preschool, LLC

Human Skills and Resources

Oklahoma Therapeutic Foster Care Assoc

Wesleyan Youth Inc.

Wesleyan Youth, Inc.

Oregon

Children First for Oregon

Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls

Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs

Pennsylvania

Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley

Community Legal Services, Inc.

PCCYFS

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Three Rivers Adoption Council

Youth Service, Inc.

Rhode Island

Community Health Innovations

South Carolina

Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina

Growing Home Southeast, Inc.

South Carolina Association of Children's Homes and Family Services

South Carolina MENTOR

South Dakota

South Dakota for Hope and Recovery

Tennessee

Knox Area Association for the Education of Young Children

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

The Black Children's Institute of Tennessee

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Kids World Learning Center

Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services

YWCA Fort Worth and Tarrant County

Utah

Voices for Utah Children

Virginia

Adolescent and Family Growth Center, Inc.

Braley and Thompson, Inc

Endependence Center

Heritage for Kids

Intercept Youth Services, Inc.

Jewish Family Service of Tidewater, Inc.

Laurinda's Mini-Preschool

Northern Virginia Family Service

PHILLIPS Teaching Homes

Seven Corners Children's Center

TLC4Kids Children's Center

United Methodist Family Services

Voices for Virginia's Children

Vermont

Voices for Vermont's Children

Washington

Disability Rights Washington

PAVE – Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment

ABC for Health, Inc.

Wisconsin

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Community Advocates

Family Voices of Wisconsin

Legacy Center

Linda and Gene Farley WI Chapter-Physicians for a National Health Plan

Mental Health America of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care

Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies

Wisconsin Association of Peer Specialists, Inc.

West Virginia

Alliance for Children

Burlington United Methodist Family Services

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

Olympia Center Preston, Inc.

WV FREE

WV KIDS COUNT Fund