



THE HOSPITAL & HEALTHSYSTEM
ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA



July 27, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As health care providers, workers, and advocates who share a common mission of providing health care services to medically vulnerable populations, we urge you to act on behalf of seniors, people with disabilities, families, and children whose care is in jeopardy under proposals being considered as part of the debt ceiling negotiations.

More than \$100 billion in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) cuts have been proposed through elimination or capping of provider assessments, and federal matching (FMAP) reductions to states through a single “blended rate.” These changes eliminate long-approved revenue sources to finance a program that is critical to the life-saving missions of hospitals, nursing homes, and health care workers.

The magnitude of the cuts under consideration, and the process through which the cuts would be implemented, must be rejected. We are asking you to protect an already fragile safety net of services that has been stressed and weakened by the severe economic downturn at a time when the uninsured population has continued to grow. In Pennsylvania, Medical Assistance enrollment is expected to increase 20 percent in 2014. The proposed cuts would seriously damage the overall fiscal health of hospitals and nursing homes; threaten access to care; exacerbate the economic crisis by eliminating large numbers of jobs; severely limit training for the health care professionals of the future; jeopardize investments in technology and clinical initiatives; and hinder our ability to meet health reform requirements.

The decisions that will be made in the upcoming days must reinforce, rather than undermine, our efforts to expand health care access in our state. We understand the need to address the long-term deficit issue, and want to work with our elected officials in Washington to identify alternatives to the proposed shift to a “blended rate” for federal matching funds, and to protect Pennsylvania’s provider fees. Patient care is at direct risk, along with vital jobs that result in major economic contributions in communities across the commonwealth. Please reject the Medicaid and CHIP cuts currently under consideration.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN F. SCANLAN
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Hospital & Healthsystem Association
of Pennsylvania

STUART H. SHAPIRO, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Pennsylvania Health Care Association

NEAL BISNO
President
SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania

RONALD L. BARTH
President and Chief Executive Officer
LeadingAge PA



THE HOSPITAL & HEALTHSYSTEM
ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA



July 26, 2011

Honorable Member of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

As health care providers, workers, and advocates who share a common mission of providing health care services to medically vulnerable populations, we urge you to speak out on behalf of seniors, people with disabilities, families, and children whose care is in jeopardy under proposals being considered as part of the debt ceiling negotiations.

More than \$100 billion in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) cuts have been proposed through elimination or capping of provider assessments, and federal matching (FMAP) reductions to states through a single “blended rate.” These changes eliminate long-approved revenue sources to finance a program that is critical to the life-saving missions of hospitals, long-term care facilities, and health care workers.

The magnitude of the cuts under consideration, and the process through which the cuts would be implemented, must be rejected. We are looking to Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation to protect an already fragile safety net of services that has been stressed and weakened by the severe economic downturn at a time when the uninsured population has continued to grow. Statewide Medical Assistance enrollment is expected to increase 20 percent in 2014. The proposed cuts would seriously damage the overall fiscal health of hospitals and long-term care facilities; threaten access to care; exacerbate the economic crisis by eliminating large numbers of jobs; severely limit training for the health care professionals of the future; jeopardize investments in technology and clinical initiatives; and hinder our ability to meet health reform requirements.

The decisions that will be made in the upcoming days must reinforce, rather than undermine, our efforts to expand health care access in our state. We understand the need to address the long-term deficit issue, and look forward to working with you to identify alternatives to the proposed shift to a “blended rate” for federal matching funds, and to protect Pennsylvania’s provider fees. Patient care is at direct risk, along with vital jobs that result in major economic contributions in communities across the commonwealth. Please reject the Medicaid and CHIP cuts currently under consideration.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN F. SCANLAN
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Hospital & Healthsystem Association
of Pennsylvania

STUART H. SHAPIRO, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Pennsylvania Health Care Association

NEAL BISNO
President
SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania

RONALD L. BARTH
President and Chief Executive Officer
LeadingAge PA