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April 2, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Timothy F. Murphy
Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Congressman Murphy:

The nation's governors support your efforts to delay the series of Medicaid regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that will shift billions of dollars in federal costs to states. As you know, some of these regulations already have become effective and current state estimates of the impact could be as high as four times the Administration's \$13 billion estimate. Therefore, timely action by Congress continues to be critical to avert significant disruptions in coverage for vulnerable populations.

While we strongly believe that a more thoughtful and collaborative consideration of the issues raised by these regulations is in the best interest of the Medicaid program, there simply is not sufficient time during the remainder of the congressional calendar to fashion appropriate solutions. Your legislation delays implementation of the regulations to ensure Congress has sufficient time to act appropriately on the regulations.

Your leadership on this high priority of the nation's governors is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Governor Tim Pawlenty

Governor Edward G. Rendell

Governor James H. Douglas
Chair
Health and Human Services Committee

Governor Jon S. Corzine
Vice Chair
Health and Human Services Committee