

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2007

Dear Colleague:


We urge you to sign on to the attached letter to Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley of the Senate Finance Committee. The letter expresses our strong opposition to the recently proposed regulatory action by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that drastically cuts Medicaid funding by reducing school-based and rehabilitative services for children and adults with disabilities.

Thanks to the Senate Finance Committee's leadership, both the Senate and the House approved a moratorium on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis in the Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization. Unfortunately, without a legislative override of President Bush's veto of the bipartisan CHIP bill, this moratorium will not go into effect. Therefore, we are asking the Senate Finance Committee to address our concerns with these policies in the Senate Finance Medicare package or in another appropriate legislative vehicle this year.


We want to preserve the Finance Committee's jurisdiction to engage in a thoughtful consideration of the rules and their impact on the provision of services to millions of children and adults with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. This letter has the support of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which includes more than 50 groups nationwide. Their letter of support is attached.

If you have questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Abby Driscoll (8-6411) with Senator Sanders or Priscilla Hanley (4-2523) with Senator Collins by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 15. Thank you for your consideration and your support for America's most vulnerable and needy citizens.

Sincerely,

  
BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator

  
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator

  
SUSAN COLLINS  
United States Senator

Attachment