



Legislative Alert Support the Extension Of Medicaid Match Rates (FMAP)

June 24, 2010

Background

H.R. 4213: American Jobs and Closing Loopholes Act

Medicaid offers health care coverage to Ohio's low-income disabled residents and poor families and children, and helps pay providers – including doctors and hospitals – for beneficiaries' care. Medicaid always serves as a vital safety-net, but particularly in these difficult economic times.

Under current law, the federal Medicaid matching rate (FMAP) is increased by 6.2 percentage points for all States, and by additional percentage points for states with high unemployment. These temporary increases were enacted in the *Recovery Act* in February 2009 in response to the increased Medicaid caseloads and decreasing state revenues resulting from the recession. The increase is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2010.

H.R. 4213 will continue federal assistance for six months. For January – March 2011, the federal Medicaid matching rate will be increased by 3.2 percentage points, and for April – June 2011, the federal Medicaid matching rate will be increased by 1.2 percentage points. For the same six-month period, states with high unemployment will continue to receive the additional percentage points, as they do under current law.

Ohio Catholic Hospitals Call for Extension

In a letter to Senator Voinovich supporting the extension of FMAP, the Department on Health Affairs for the Catholic Conference of Ohio writes: "Catholic hospitals like other employers continue to be challenged by the economic downturn and slow recovery. Hospitals serve a uniquely public health purpose: we provide high quality compassionate care to all who seek it regardless of ability to pay, and now do so while absorbing a new state hospital franchise fee. FMAP extension (through June 2011) is an important component of providing additional but temporary relief to the states during a time of hardship and to ensure job protection and continuation of essential health and human services."

Action Request

Please contact Senator Voinovich today. Ask him to support the extension of FMAP.

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