

Letter to Johnny Isakson re: Medicaid FMAP

January 13, 2005

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
132 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator-elect Isakson:

Congratulations on your election to the Senate, and thank you very much for your previous support and co-sponsorship in the 108th Congress of legislation to increase Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage.

As you know, Medicaid is often the only source of health coverage available for low income children, it is a critical support for people with disabilities in the community, and the main source of financial assistance for those who absolutely need nursing home care because of serious medical problems, like Alzheimer's Disease. Attached is some material on the importance of the program in Georgia.

We are deeply concerned that in the new Congress, efforts will be made to make major cuts in Federal support for Medicaid, thus shifting costs to local governments and the poorest of our fellow citizens. We hope you will join us in opposing any efforts to cap, block-grant or otherwise arbitrarily limit spending on Medicaid in the up-coming Budget Resolution or Reconciliation bills.

Cuts in Medicaid will only increase--not reduce--the number of uninsured Americans and worsen the health of our most vulnerable neighbors. It will make Georgia's budget problems even worse.

We urge you to contact Budget Committee members and Congressional leadership now to ask that Medicaid not be capped or cut in the coming budget process.

Thank you again for your past support—and we hope we can count on your help in the future.

Sincerely,

AFSCME Retiree Program
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alzheimer's Association
American Association for International Aging
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Geriatrics Society
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Families USA
Gray Panthers
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association for Home Care and Hospice
National Association of Social Workers

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
National Council on the Aging
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Senior Citizens Law Center
Service Employees International Union Retired Members Program