



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

Barbara B. Kennelly, Chair

February 1, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

America's Seniors, Disabled and Poor will pay the Price for Congressional Budget Bill

Congress today narrowly passed a Budget Reconciliation bill that shows once again Congress' misplaced priorities. Under this Budget bill; American seniors, the poor, disabled, children and college students are being forced to pay the price tag for record deficits and \$70 billion dollars in proposed tax cuts for the wealthy.

"Less than 24 hours after the President addressed healthcare in his State of the Union address, his allies in Congress have passed legislation that will strip Medicaid coverage from 100,000 beneficiaries, mostly children, and raise co-payments for 13 million more. This budget bill is a disaster for Americans who can't afford healthcare without this coverage." ...Barbara B. Kennelly, LCAO Chair

Following are some of the provisions harmful to America's seniors:

- States can now charge premiums and higher co-payments for Medicaid and cut benefits. The Congressional Budget Office estimates 100,000 beneficiaries will lose their coverage because of the premium hike.
- The Congressional Budget Office says 80% of the savings from these cost-sharing provisions will come because seniors and the poor won't get the healthcare they're receiving now.
- Severe changes to Asset Transfer provisions make it difficult for seniors to qualify for long-term care services under Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office predicts this provision will delay nursing home coverage for 120,000 seniors each year.

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations will continue its efforts to reverse these unfortunate budget cuts.