

**Submitter :** Mrs. Judy Guiraud  
**Organization :** Mrs. Judy Guiraud  
**Category :** Nurse

**Date:** 09/26/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

CMS-2287-P

Concerning the proposed changes to federal funding in medicaid, I am opposed to cuts in funding. If the severely disabled can't get to school they receive none of the services granted under the equal access to health and education. Most of they kids receive medical treatments along with their education. Of course they have to get to where the services are. The Bush administration will force school districts to bear the costs at the expense of all children. So by stealing 1.13 billion from California, all children will lose out and pay the price with their future. Stop this foolish money grab.  
Judy Guiraud and Gizmo my service dog

**Submitter :** Mrs. Donna Robinson

**Date:** 09/26/2007

**Organization :** none

**Category :** Individual

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

We feel that Pres. Bush has stooped to a new low regarding CMS-2287p.

Lower taxes for the wealthy but refuse care for the most helpless of our nation, disabled children. This proposal is cruel, cold and debasing to these children and puts an unbearable load on cities, counties and states. And he claims to be a Christian! We know of nothing in Christianity that defends this disgusting, callus proposal. By the way, my husband is a loyal Republican and agrees with me. I am a registered Democrat. When will impeachment begin? This man is a demogod. (husband disagrees). Donna Robinson

**Submitter :** Mrs. Sandy Playter  
**Organization :** Raytown Schools District  
**Category :** Academic

**Date:** 09/27/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

The Medicaid reimbursement our district obtains provides an amazing array of services for our students who might otherwise not receive counseling or therapy services privately because of parents' inability to provide transportation or lack of medical coverage. I am sure many student throughout the State benefit significantly from Medicaid reimbursement.

**Submitter :** Mr. Christopher F. Saenz  
**Organization :** Jefferson Elementary, Lindsay Unified  
**Category :** Academic

**Date:** 09/27/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. As principal of Jefferson Elementary School, which is part of a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. These services are an important asset to the families of our school site and district. In order to best support student achievement we must also embrace their attitudes and perceptions. Attitudes and perceptions, also known as The Self-System, is at the core of student learning. Without a healthy self-system, student success is not going to happen. The services provided through the reimbursement allow us to provide support for a child in order to gain that healthy self-system.

From the little research that I have done on funding in our education system, I do know these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families.

Be a part of our village and do what is right for children. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our students to be denied a healthy self system. Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher F. Saenz

**Submitter :** Mrs. Corinne Ricci  
**Organization :** Santa Clara Office on Education  
**Category :** Speech-Language Therapist

**Date:** 09/27/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I am not in favor of this proposal as it greatly effects the appropriate servicing of severely disabled children. My capability to appropriately provide services to children within our community is greatly dependant on Medicaid funding. This money is vital to providing therapy materials and parent education materials. It is also less expensive to provide funding in this manner as the individuals who know and facilitate these needy children on a daily basis are capable of making the best recommendation for servicing and materials. Outside agencies are not capable of making appropriate recommendations due to their limited knowledge of these highly complex children. The method of billing services to Medicaid is used responsibly and appropriately to provide the neediest children within our community services and materials. I would also like to add that I am a fully certificated and licensed therapist. I not only meet the state qualifications to work as a speech language pathologist within a hospital/rehabilitation setting but I have also received California certification as a teacher of speech.

This is an appropriate delegation of Medicaid funding and schools have every right to bill for Medicaid services as these children are medically intensive. In looking to the long-term effects of not providing payment for these services will ultimately entail higher costs later for higher levels of care provision as these children will not have access to materials and needed care. The elimination of this funding will not allow me to provide basic professional care to these children.

Sincerely,  
Corinne Ricci, MA CCC-SLP/L  
Masters in Communicative Disorders  
Clinical Certificate of Competency from American Speech Language and Hearing Association and CA Licensed for Practice

**Submitter :** Mrs. Rosa Bolanos-Valledor

**Date:** 09/27/2007

**Organization :** Parent

**Category :** Federal Government

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I opposed CMS-2287-P. In order for our children to be successful in school they need to have the support. If cost related to transportation are taken away how will my children be successful in school. It is already a battle with our local school districts just to keep the minimal services they have due to the limited budget. Children with disabilities are important please stop cutting services that help American Citizens. Life is so difficult already for our children with disabilities. Why does the Federal Government want to make it harder?

**Submitter :** Mrs. Gayle Costello  
**Organization :** N/A (retired teacher)  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 09/27/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

Gentlemen:

I do not understand how Medicaid became involved with transporting students to school. Students, whether they are with or without disabilities, attend school to learn. They do not attend school to receive medical treatment and if the Speech Teacher does pull them out once a week for an hour, that is not a medical service. I am a retired high school teacher, and for the last 11 years that I taught, there was never a nurse on campus unless it was a specific scheduled visit, such as mass Vision Screening, or when there was an emergency. In those instances, the one nurse in the district (total 10+ schools), would drive to the school and render a specific service. All bandages, cold packs and basic first aid items were handled by school secretaries/clerks.

If a specific disabled child needed particular on-going health services, they were performed by the adult aide assigned to that student, not by an on-campus nurse. These services were all spelled out in advance in the student's Individual Education Plan, and were not medical services, but simply an intervention to enable the student to function as a student.

Education is supposed to be the function of the local school district, funded by property taxes. In spite of NCLB trying to force higher academic standards on schools, Education is still the responsibility of the school board and county.

No wonder Medicaid doesn't have enough money. Please stop using federal taxpayers' money to pay for transportation that should be funded at the local level. What a waste to send money to Washington, supposedly for Defense and other federal mandates, and then it is sent back to the local schools to pay for bus services.

If this is a situation where the federal government has tried to buy influence in local schools, by providing transportation services, then they should get out. The federal government has proven it cannot run very many things well and it tends to squander money. Furthermore, contrary to Congress' actions, i.e., earmarks for ridiculous local projects, we do not have unlimited revenues.

Let schools pay for their own transportation costs, with no strings attached from the federal government.

If schools do not have the money to transport disabled students, they can discontinue sponsoring after-school athletic programs at the elementary and intermediate levels, and other activities that are not a core part of a student's education. Schools cannot replace parents in providing interesting learning opportunities out in the community and cannot be all things to all people, nor should they have to be.

What part of "transportation" includes the word "medical" ??

Gayle Costello, CA

**Submitter :** Mr. Gary Van Hemert  
**Organization :** Mason City Community Schools  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I urge continuation for schools to be able to seek Medicaid reimbursement for medical services provided in the school setting and for school transportation. Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 requires schools to provide these services especially since the Garrett case. Medicaid reimburses schools for costs that exceed tens of thousands of dollars on individual students which is not provided by special education funding. Loss of Medicaid reimbursement would adversely effect the schools' capacity to meet the needs of students under IDEIA 2004.



**CMS-2287-P-151**

**Submitter :** Ms. John Wilhelm

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Organization :** Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center

**Category :** Academic

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

School districts cannot be asked to meet the needs of all students without help from the federal government. The federal legislation that demands FAPE carries with it a high price tag. Eliminating this source of funding for schools further reduces the promised support from many years ago.

**Submitter :** Mr. Casey O'Brien

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Organization :** Payson UNified School District

**Category :** Academic

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

Because these are services required under students Individualized Education Program, local school districts will have to continue to provide them. Therefore this proposed elimination is just another example of passing down an unpaid federal expense to local school districts. As a school district superintendent, I can unequivocally affirm the importance of continued medicaid funding. Thank you.

**Submitter :** Dr. Lawrence T. Walters  
**Organization :** Superintendent, Lee County Schools  
**Category :** Local Government

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

This email is in reference to CMS-2287-P. The LCSS has received medicaid reimbursement for several years. The school system provides services each year to many medicaid eligible students. The funds that are reimbursed to us are used for valuable services provided by our special education department. We will experience a disruption of services if the reimbursement program is reduced or eliminated. We strongly support the program and ask that it not be eliminated.

Lawrence T. Walters  
*Superintendent*  
Lee County Schools

**Submitter :** Mr. Nate Crowden

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Organization :** Delta R-v Schools

**Category :** Academic

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

This is such a poor proposal. Our students rely on the accessibility of these staff members for a quality education. Losing these monies would decrease the staff used for these students. We cannot afford this without the medicaid funding

**Submitter :** Patrick Dixon  
**Organization :** Patrick Dixon  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

RE: Code Docket CMS-2287-P

I have been personally involved in a non-profit organization for the past five years that works to provide health, dental, vision, and psychological services to children through the schools. I have seen the benefit to the children served as they are healthier and happier and more eager to learn. This organization has served over 200 children in our community by assisting them to obtain help through Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Schools are the ideal place to offer assistance for these students in need and I urge you to continue your support for the school-based MAA program. Without this program in place in our schools, many children will suffer needlessly.

In support of MAA,  
Patrick Dixon

**Submitter :** Mrs. Pam McMackin

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Organization :** Bellflower Unified school District- Somerset High

**Category :** Academic

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

RE: Code Docket CMS-2287-P

I have been personally involved in a non-profit organization for the past fifteen months that works to provide health, dental, vision, and psychological services to children through the schools. I have seen the benefit to the children served as they are healthier and happier and more eager to learn. This organization has served over 200 children in our community by assisting them to obtain help through Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Schools are the ideal place to offer assistance for these students in need and I urge you to continue your support for the school-based MAA program. Without this program in place in our schools, many children will suffer needlessly.

In support of MAA,

**Submitter :** Mrs. Maria Panchame

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**Organization :** The Salvation Army

**Category :** Individual

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

I have been involved with a non-profit organization for 7 years that works to serve children through the schools, who are in need of physical and mental health services. During that time I have seen what a difference it makes when children enter the classroom healthy and ready to learn. I urge you to continue your support for the school-based MAA program

**CMS-2287-P-158**

**Submitter :** Mr. David Gordon  
**Organization :** Sacramento County Office of Education  
**Category :** Academic  
**Issue Areas/Comments**

**Date:** 09/28/2007

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

See Attachment

CMS-2287-P-158-Attach-1.PDF

CMS-2287-P-158-Attach-2.PDF



# Sacramento Office of Education County

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David W. Gordon  
Superintendent

September 28, 2007

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,  
Department of Health and Human Services,  
Attention: CMS-2287-P,  
Mail Stop S3-14-22  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter on behalf of the estimated 9 million children in America who are without health insurance and whose families struggle to earn enough money for food and shelter.

The health-insurance program, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which applies to some 6 million children who otherwise would not have coverage, is due to expire on September 30, 2007. It is crucial that the President agree to both extend and expand this program.

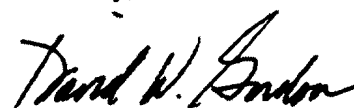
The president has proposed \$4.8 billion in new SCHIP funding over a five year period. However, the Congressional Budget Office projects that funding at that level would result in no new coverage. In fact, the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families has determined such an appropriation would result in the loss of SCHIP coverage for more than 1 million children.

The President's current plan could underfund the program by an estimated \$9-billion according to analysis by the Congressional Budget Office. This proposed appropriation is inadequate and comes at a time when a major expansion of a children's health program is necessary.

The compromise legislation on the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program approved by Congress would secure SCHIP's future for the next 10 years. It would allow states to continue their efforts to cover more children, particularly those from the lowest income families.

Time is running short. Millions of uninsured children in America are counting on the President to do the right thing.

Sincerely,



David W. Gordon  
Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools



**Submitter :** Leslie Sirag  
**Organization :** Leslie Sirag  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 09/29/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

As an adoptive parent of a child whose disabilities necessitate a non-standard school day, I believe that this change would negatively impact my son's chances for a free & appropriate education. Our district has already cut all extracurricular transportation, reducing the opportunities for children of working parents to participate in afterschool activities. I cannot see how the special bus services could be funded without federal dollars, & know that many parents would be unable to work & provide this transportation for their children, which would also make this a disincentive to the adoption of children with special needs.

**Submitter :** Ms. Rosaline Turnbull

**Date:** 09/30/2007

**Organization :** Ms. Rosaline Turnbull

**Category :** Federal Government

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

CMS-2287-P I cannot believe Republicans will be voting to discontinue money for disabled children getting to and from school. To me the law, federal law, requires schools to provide medical services so they can attend school. President Bush - I am a republican but hate to say that because you have let the American people down in several areas and I am glad I didn't vote for you. No Child Left Behind -- this means you are leaving the disabled children behind and are not living up to what you are proclaiming. They are the ones that need so much from all of us. It is time to think of all children and the future of our nation. Its like you are dealing with them like you have dealt with poverty in this country. Money should be spent in our country for our children, for our people in need and not wasted on people who do not have a right to be in our country. How much money is going for those children???

Please think again about the children of need, they need your help now.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Deirdre DiMemmo

**Date:** 09/30/2007

**Organization :** Mrs. Deirdre DiMemmo

**Category :** Individual

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I am the parent of an autistic child. He has benefitted from various therapies-therapies that are proposed to be eliminated by this law. In order for these children to be able to function in our society as adults, these therapies are a necessity. Many-if not most-private insurance companies do not cover these treatments because they are considered mental health therapies. Parents are dependent on assistance in order to provide the best possible care for their children. To limit the access and funding available for this will be harmful to the quality of life for these kids.

**Submitter :** Mr. Gary Battles  
**Organization :** West Nodaway R-1 School District  
**Category :** State Government

**Date:** 10/01/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services needs to reassess their idea to eliminate Medicaid funding for transportation of handicapped students. It is difficult enough to make ends meet with school budgets and special needs students do require extra staff, materials and transportation. With the costs in all areas increasing, the idea to drop Medicaid funding is not realistic and prudent. Please reconsider your position.

**Submitter :**

**Date: 10/01/2007**

**Organization :**

**Category : Academic**

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

It is very disturbing to me that consideration is being given to eliminate reimbursement for the costs of certain activities that have been previously reimbursed. The education of students with disabilities is very expensive. The federal government provides funding for only about 17% of the expenses related to the education of these students. The cost of educating these children is raising every year and the funds we receive are diminishing. As an example, we may spend between \$20 and 25,000 to educate a student with autism, yet, we get less than one-half of that money. The needs of these children has increased. We must hire more and more speech language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, behavior specialists, school psychologists, and other service providers in order to meet these various needs. Most of these individuals cannot directly bill for Medicaid reimbursement so we must rely on the administrative process to recover a small portion of the funds we expend.

The transportation of a child with a disability is also very costly. We have children whose buses must be equipped with a wheelchair lift, nebulizer, monitors, air conditioning, seatbelts, harnesses, and car seats. How can anyone think that these expenses do not put a hardship on a school system? I sincerely hope that reconsideration is being given to the elimination of this program.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Alice Horowitz

**Date:** 10/01/2007

**Organization :** Mrs. Alice Horowitz

**Category :** Individual

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

Our children with disabilities must be served. Our schools are already underfunded on so many levels, and if this bill passes more cuts will have to be made. This bill is a stupid and shameful idea. It should not be passed.

**Submitter :** Dr. Camille Giometti-May  
**Organization :** Yolo County SELPA  
**Category :** Academic

**Date:** 10/01/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

Federal powers have yet to fulfill the promise of 40% funding of IDEA, now the movement is to eliminate yet another funding stream for students with disabilities. When are promises going to be fulfilled? When will students with disabilities have consistent funding that can be built on? You should never have given it if it is now going to yanked away from the students and programs with no replacement funding. The highest percentage of IDEA funding ever provided was 18%--IDEA funding has dropped since the re-authorization to 15%--You all passed IDEA-so you all need to fund it! Stop gap funding that is inconsistent hurts the students and programs in the end-because of just this issue "here to today gone tomorrow"! Respectfully submitted, Camille Giometti-May, Concerned Educator



**Submitter :** Dr. James Scott  
**Organization :** Ohio Department of Education  
**Category :** State Government

**Date:** 10/01/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

It is unclear in the proposed rules if this funding source is available to school-based Head Start programs? Please provide clarification to this matter.

**Submitter :** Ms. Pam Burns-Clair  
**Organization :** private practice psychotherapist  
**Category :** Health Care Provider/Association  
**Issue Areas/Comments**

**Date:** 10/01/2007

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

I find it alarming and unacceptable that the Bush administration and now associated agencies including Center for Medicare and Medicaid have proposed to eliminate funding for services to disabled students. These families have enough challenges facing them--they do not need transportation to school or therapy settings. Please reconsider.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Deborah Moore  
**Organization :** Elbert County School System  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

The Elbert County School System depends on medicaid money, billed through Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing and Transportation to operate our programs for Students with Disabilities. Elbert County is a poor, rural Northeast Georgia community and the school system operates on a very tight budget from year to year. Due to the fact that our county has been categorized as significantly disproportionate in the area of black MID, the special education budget has been forced to spend 15% of the money on regular education early intervention services. The loss of the medicaid funding will significantly impact the special education program for Elbert County Schools.

Please consider counties such as ours when making the decision to discontinue medicaid billing for schools.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Rita Pettigrew  
**Organization :** North Central Special Education Cooperative  
**Category :** Academic

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

October 1, 2007

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

On behalf of the North Central Special Education Cooperative, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed rule that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released. The rule would eliminate Medicaid reimbursement for administrative and transportation costs for services provided to students with disabilities under IDEA. We urge you to direct CMS to amend the proposed rule, which would be harmful to the most vulnerable of America's school children—those with disabilities who come from impoverished families.

The cooperative school districts are extremely concerned that the rule would reduce the availability of, and access to, needed health care for these students.

Federal Medicaid reimbursement for administrative services is critically important to ensure that schools are able to provide the appropriate outreach activities to link children to medical services, identify those students who may need medical screening, and provide referral services in the community.

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-360) allows school districts to receive Medicaid payments for health services delivered to Medicaid-eligible children with disabilities who may need transportation for diagnostic, preventive and rehabilitative services and therapies, as well as the administrative costs of providing school-based services, such as outreach for enrollment purposes, coordination and/or monitoring of medical care. A rule to prohibit schools from claiming these expenses would contradict existing law and seriously impede the ability of states and school districts to provide these services, which are mandated under IDEA.

At a time when the federal government is only funding approximately 20 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for each child in special education, instead of the 40 percent that Congress promised to pay when IDEA was first enacted, major cutbacks in Medicaid reimbursements will severely restrict the ability of states and local school districts to provide much-needed health care services to disabled children.

The NCSEC school districts strongly urge you to reconsider implementing this proposed administrative change and to work with states and school districts to ensure that all children receive the health services that they deserve. Without access to appropriate health care, children with disabilities will face even more challenges to making progress consistent with the President's signature domestic policy, the No Child Left Behind Act.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Rita Pettigrew, Director  
North Central Special Education Cooperative  
Aberdeen, SD

CC: The Honorable Tim Johnson  
The Honorable John R. Thune  
The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

**Submitter :** Dr. Jane Bauer  
**Organization :** River Bend CUSD 2  
**Category :** Other Government

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

It is imperative that schools receive medicaid reimbursement. We provide a broad spectrum of health related care and must receive reimbursement to survive. The local taxpayers cannot carry a heavier tax burden to provide medicaid services to the children of the district. Continue and improve medicaid reimbursement to public school districts.

**Submitter :** Mrs. Gayla Capers  
**Organization :** Victoria Independent School District  
**Category :** Federal Government

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I feel that this will have a critical impact on school districts that bill for the services that otherwise would have to be billed elsewhere, lessening the time that students will spend on campuses receiving their instructions. Then the burden of assistance will be on parents; while the educational institution does nothing. Most of these services are required in the student's IEP's and we will have to provide the services with no funding whatsoever!

We support your spending plan and the priority it places on education!

**Submitter :** Ms. Kimberly Kaeding

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Organization :** Ms. Kimberly Kaeding

**Category :** Physical Therapist

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

The medi-cal funding generated from my work as a physical therapist in the school setting has made a significant impact on their educational program. I work with severely handicapped children who are enrolled in public school. Our funding has allowed us to improve motor skill equipment, purchase therapeutic chairs, walkers and other items. We have improved our training programs so that we may better serve the students. Please continue the medi-cal funding of school based therapy. Our services make integration and free appropriate education available. thank you- Kim Kaeding, PT Pediatric Physical Therapist

**Submitter :** Dr. Joan McGuire  
**Organization :** La Salle Elementary Schools  
**Category :** Local Government

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

I am a Superintendent of an Elem. Dist. Our low income count has risen from 35% in 1990 to 67% in 2006-2007. We have over 14 additional programs to help these children. We keep the junior high students until 6:00 if their parents are not at home. Our special ed. students has risen in percentages. More crushing than that is the severity of their problems. Autism, tracheotomies, seizures, life-threatening diseases are numerous. If we lose me+dicaid money we will be forced to eliminate all of our extended programs to manage a mandate to transport. In our case it will be an even "swap." How sad that so many children will pay a dear price. Our community values our after school programs. Crime has lessened with our children. We know that many juvenile crimes are committed between the hours of 3 and 6. I don't know what to do. Joan McGuire, Ph. D., Superintendent



**Submitter :** Michele Schott  
**Organization :** Laytonville Healthy Start  
**Category :** Association

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

As Director of our Family Resource Center, much of our day is spent linking children and families in our school district to health services. Teachers do not have time and cannot be expected to attend to all the health needs of students and cannot effectively teach students with unmet medical needs. School Districts are in the unique position of having access to children eligible for Medicaid services and building trust with parents in order to wade through the bureaucratic maze of getting health care for their children. We live in a medically underserved area with no public transportation and with one Rural Health Center. Most diagnostic tests and specialized care are obtained an hour or more drive away. Our Medicaid eligible students have an even bigger challenge to getting care as most private providers cannot afford to accept Medicaid patients. Because of barriers such as poverty, transportation, geographical isolation and education, the coordination of Medicaid services is paramount to the health of the community.

**Submitter :** Mr. Ruben Presiado  
**Organization :** Somerset Continuation High School  
**Category :** Individual

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

**GENERAL**

As the assistant principal of a continuation high school, I encourage your support for Docket: CMS-2287-P. Over the last several years, I have personally witnessed the assistance provided by the Medicaid Program. Our continuation high school, located in the metropolitan Los Angeles, is predominately attended by students who are at-risk, and are finding success pursuing their academic goals. Now and again, many of these students need extra assistance provided by our community service worker, which in part is funded by this program.

The benefits of this assistance was recently evident when our student Chris, who came to us heavily involved in gangs, requested to come to our school to create distance between his gang member friends and to begin anew. He quickly found success in school and began to dress and act differently, in spite of the pressure of his ex-gang friends. The assistance, encouragement, counseling and work provided by this program has transformed Chris into a student who now assists other students through a peer counseling program also provided by this program.

I encourage your support for the Docket: CMS-2287-P - Medicaid Program; Elimination of Reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration Expenditures and Costs Related to Transportation of School-Age Children between Home and School.

Sincerely,

Ruben Presiado  
Assistant Principal

**Submitter :** Ms. Marsha Boutelle  
**Organization :** California School Boards Association  
**Category :** Other Association

**Date:** 10/02/2007

**Issue Areas/Comments**

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

Removing this urgently needed funding for K-12 disabled students is reprehensible. Please reconsider your proposed action.

Submitter : Ms. Denise Herrmann

Date: 10/03/2007

Organization : Ms. Denise Herrmann

Category : Nurse Practitioner

Issue Areas/Comments

**GENERAL**

GENERAL

As a pediatric nurse practitioner working in a urban public school district, it is my opinion that the outreach activities that I do everyday to assist families in the Medicaid application process so that they will gain access to health care is necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan; and that the reason those individuals are not already covered by Medicaid and connected to services is because the employees of the local Medicaid agency are not efficient and do not reach out to eligible families.

I take on this work, because the health conditions of children directly impact their education and learning. You can't have learning without good health. Education improves health. Health and education are inextricably linked. Why are you separating them?

Sincerely,

Denise Herrmann MS RN CNP FNASN