April 13, 2011

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Ryan, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

As organizations dedicated to ensuring that all our nation’s children get the health care services they need and deserve, we are writing to urge you to protect children’s health coverage in the FY 2012 Budget Resolution. We are deeply concerned about the committee’s proposal to drastically reduce funding for the Medicaid program, particularly if it is accompanied by any weakening of the coverage and protections currently guaranteed to children. Medicaid plays an essential role in securing the health and well-being of almost 30 million children, especially as families continue to struggle with the downturn in the economy. As the committee considers its budget priorities for the coming year, we urge you to hold children harmless.

Together with the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid has been enormously successful in providing access to health services for one-third of our nation’s children. From vaccinations, well-child check-ups, and chronic disease management, to oral health and vision care, Medicaid ensures that children get the services they need to grow, develop, and go to school ready to learn. By every measure, Medicaid is a cost-effective and essential lifeline for children, who constitute about 50 percent of the beneficiaries, but only about 20 percent of the costs.

While we recognize that the current budget climate requires congressional attention, it is important to understand that cutting care to children could actually have the effect of increasing costs, both in health and in other sectors. Block granting Medicaid would not only jeopardize coverage for millions of children, it would also result in cost-shifting that would place an even greater burden on states, localities, providers, and families. In addition, the committee’s proposal would have a major impact on job growth and business activity, particularly within the health sector. Finally, the proposed cuts would have a compounded negative impact on states, since a reduction in state funding for CHIP, Medicaid, or both of those programs translates to a significant loss of federal matching funds, leaving states with far fewer resources to provide necessary care.

Instead of draconian cuts that will disrupt health care coverage for millions of American children, we urge the committee to seek more efficient, cost-effective ways to address the budget deficit. Keeping children healthy is not just the right thing to do, it is critical if our nation is to have a workforce that is healthy and prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

In the spirit of the bipartisanship that has sustained and improved children’s health coverage for more than four decades, we urge you to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the important gains won for children’s coverage are protected even during these challenging economic times. Our nation cannot afford to shortchange the health of our most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,
National Organizations:

Adopt America Network
Advocacy for Patients with Chronic Illness, Inc.
Alliance for Children and Families
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of School Administrators
American Association on Health and Disability
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Orthopsychiatric Association
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Ardinger Consultants & Associates
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism National Committee (AutCom)
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Axler & Associates
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Black Administrators in Child Welfare
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Center for Public Representation
Center for Rural Affairs
Charles Drew University
Child Welfare League of America
Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Health Fund
Children's Sanctuary
Clinical Social Work Guild 49
Coalition to End Childhood Trauma
Coastal Harbor
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Exceptional Children
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Disciples Justice Action Network
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Doctors for America
Easter Seals
Every Child Matters Education Fund
Families First, Inc.
Family Preservation Community Services
Family Voices
First Focus
Forum for Youth Investment
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
Generations United
Health & Disability Advocates
Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Foundation International
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
International Essential Tremor Foundation
Jewish Council For Public Affairs
Kids With Heart National Association for Children's Heart Disorders, Inc.
KidsPeace Corporation
KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia
Learning Disabilities Association of America
MomsRising
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Assembly of School-Based Health Care
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disorders Directors
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Empowerment Center, Inc.
National Foster Parent Association
National Foundation for Mental Health
National Health Foundation
National Health Law Program
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
National Respite Coalition
National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation
National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
Necco
New England Consortium
New England Alliance for Children's Health, Community Catalyst
North American Council on Adoptable Children
Northeast Iowa Center for Independent Living
Nurse-Family Partnership
Physician-Parent Caregivers
PICO National Network
Pressley Ridge
ResCare
RESULTS
School Social Work Association of America
School Social Work Association of America & Learning Disabilities Association of America
Seraaj Family Homes, Inc
Southern Poverty Law Center
St. Margaret's Center/ Catholic Charities of L.A.
TASH
The Arc of the United States
The Children's Dental Health Project
The Children's Partnership
The Jewish Federations of North America
The National Center on Family Homelessness
The National Crittenton Foundation
Three Rivers Independent Living Corporation
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Voice for Adoption
Voices for America's Children
WIC (Women, Infants, Children food program)

Local Organizations:

**Alabama**
Christian Services for Children in Alabama, Inc.
EngAGE

**Arkansas**
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Western Arkansas Therapeutic Children's Homes

**Arizona**
Arizona Autism Coalition
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Foundation for Senior Living
Human Services Consultants
Touchstone Behavioral Health

**California**
Aldea Children & Family Services
Alpha Treatment Centers
Alternative Family Services
Angel Harvest
Be Well Now Bodyworks
California Action for Healthy Kids
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Children's Hospital Association
California Hospital Medical Center
California Medical Association
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Primary Care Association
California Respite Association
California School Health Centers Association
California State Association of Counties
Center for Oral Health
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund - California
Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
CHOC Children's Hospital
Clinica Sierra Vista
Community Health Councils
County Welfare Directors Association of California
De Novo Health Care, Inc
Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center
Family Care Network, Inc.
Family Voices of California
Flour
Futuro Infantil Hispano, FFA
Health Access
Home Assembly Church
Imperial Valley Food Bank
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Korean Resource Center
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Family Institute
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital
Los Angeles Professional Health & Wellness
Maternal and Child Health Access
Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach
Minority Health Institute
Mission Focused Solutions
Nutritional Science, California State University
SFUSD
St. John's Well Child & Family Center
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
The Positive Results Corporation
USC School of Social Work
Valley Community Clinic
Watts Healthcare Corporation
Worksite Wellness Los Angeles
Yolo Community Health Initiative

**Colorado**

Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families
Colorado Respite Coalition

**Connecticut**

Children's Community Programs of Connecticut
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
Connecticut Parent Power
Connecticut Voices for Children
Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut
Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Independence Northwest, Inc.
New Haven Legal Assistance Association

**District of Columbia**
Consortium for Child Welfare
DC Primary Care Association

**Florida**
ARC Project Thrive
Cope Center North
Famil Care Council Area 9
Florida Coalition for Children
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Sarasota Memorial Health Care System Child Care Services
The Children's Campaign
The Family Cafe
The Guardian Angel Preschool

**Georgia**
2nd African Methodist Episcopal Church
BAIN, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Elks Aidmore, Inc.
Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children
Georgia MENTOR
Voices for Georgia's Children

**Hawaii**
Family Voices of Hawaii
Good Beginnings Alliance

**Iowa**
Child and Family Policy Center
Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa
Edgerton Women's Health Center
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Iowa Primary Care Association
Iowa Public Health Association
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
League of Human Dignity
Marion County Public Health
National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter
Off to a Good Start Coalition
Orchard Place
Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

Idaho
LIFE, Inc.

Illinois
Camelot Care Centers, Inc
Child Care Association of Illinois
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living

Indiana
Family Voices Indiana
IARCCA, an Association of Children & Family Services
Phoenix Institute

Kansas
Children's Alliance

Kentucky
Audubon Area Head Start
Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children
Brooklawn Child & Family Services
Children's Alliance of Kentucky
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Youth Advocates
New Pathways for Children
Sarah's Place Women's Resource Center
St. Joseph Children's Home

**Louisiana**
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana

**Massachusetts**
Children's League of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Citizens for Children
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

**Maryland**
Advocates for Children and Youth
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland
Homeless Persons Representation Project
Maryland Assembly on School Based Health Care
Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform
Montgomery Health Care Action
Public Justice Center

**Maine**
Families And Children Together
**Michigan**

Agile-Enterprise Group LLC  
Michigan Federation for Children and Families  
Michigan League for Human Services  
Michigan Oral Health Coalition  
Michigan Primary Care Association  
Michigan's Children  
Michuhcan

**Minnesota**

Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies

**Missouri**

Partnership for Children

**Mississippi**

Mississippi Center for Justice  
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities  
New Dimensions PALS  
Public Policy Center of Mississippi  
Rosemary's Daycare and Learning Center  
Southern Echo, Inc.

**Montana**

ADAPT Montana

**North Carolina**

Benchmarks  
Brynn Marr Hospital  
Cardinal Clinic, LLC  
Caring Family Network
Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Community Support Agency
Green Light Counseling
Monarch
The Children's Home
Thompson Child & Family Focus
Triad Treatment Homes, Inc.

**North Dakota**
Community Action Partnership Head Start/ Early Head Start

**Nebraska**
Apex Foster Care
Kolb Foundation for Disability Education
Voices for Children in Nebraska

**New Hampshire**
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

**New Jersey**
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of NJ
The Winning Angel Organization

**New Mexico**
Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers
Brain Injury Association of New Mexico
ENMRSH, Inc.
EnSuenos y Los Angelitos Development Center
La Familia, Inc.
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Voices for Children
Southwest Women's Law Center
Tresco, Inc.

**New York**
Community Service Society
Family Focus Adoption Services
GA Family Services
Inwood House
New York Council on Adoptable Children
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Westchester Children's Association

**Ohio**
A New Leaf, Inc.
Agape for Youth, Inc.
Beech Brook
Family Voices of Ohio
Hittle House
Lighthouse Youth Services
Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Parmadale Institute
Respite Connections, Inc.
Safehouse Ministries, Inc.
The Children's Center of Ohio, Inc.
The Children's Home of Cincinnati
The Village Network

**Oklahoma**
Aunt Nette's Daycare & Preschool, LLC
Human Skills and Resources
Oklahoma Therapeutic Foster Care Assoc
Wesleyan Youth Inc.
Wesleyan Youth, Inc.

**Oregon**
Children First for Oregon
Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls
Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs

**Pennsylvania**
Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley
Community Legal Services, Inc.
PCCYFS
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Three Rivers Adoption Council
Youth Service, Inc.

**Rhode Island**
Community Health Innovations

**South Carolina**
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina
Growing Home Southeast, Inc.
South Carolina Association of Children’s Homes and Family Services
South Carolina MENTOR
**South Dakota**

South Dakota for Hope and Recovery

**Tennessee**

Knox Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
The Black Children's Institute of Tennessee

**Texas**

Center for Public Policy Priorities
Kids World Learning Center
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
YWCA Fort Worth and Tarrant County

**Utah**

Voices for Utah Children

**Virginia**

Adolescent and Family Growth Center, Inc.
Braley and Thompson, Inc
Endependence Center
Heritage for Kids
Intercept Youth Services, Inc.
Jewish Family Service of Tidewater, Inc.
Laurinda's Mini-Preschool
Northern Virginia Family Service
PHILLIPS Teaching Homes
Seven Corners Children's Center
TLC4K ids Children's Center
United Methodist Family Services
Voices for Virginia's Children
**Vermont**
Voices for Vermont's Children

**Washington**
Disability Rights Washington
PAVE – Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment
ABC for Health, Inc.

**Wisconsin**
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Community Advocates
Family Voices of Wisconsin
Legacy Center
Linda and Gene Farley WI Chapter-Physicians for a National Health Plan
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care
Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Association of Peer Specialists, Inc.

**West Virginia**
Alliance for Children
Burlington United Methodist Family Services
Children's Home Society of West Virginia
Olympia Center Preston, Inc.
WV FREE
WV KIDS COUNT Fund