

State Medicaid Action Alert

August 4, 2005

Contents

1. [National Conference of State Legislatures to vote on Medicaid reform -- your calls and letters needed now!](#)
2. [Action Needed](#)
3. [Contact information for all State Legislators including NCSL Health Committee Members](#)
4. [NCSL Health Committee Members, arranged by State](#)
5. [Template Message](#)

1. National Conference of State Legislatures to vote on Medicaid reform -- Your calls and letters needed now!

At the summer of conference of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) the week of August 15 (Seattle, WA), state legislators will be voting on Medicaid reform proposals, including NCSL's Long-Term Care Flexibility Option (LTCFO) proposal.

LTCFO will allow states to trade away the entitlement status of their long-term care programs under MEDICAID, in return for greater flexibility regarding program design, benefits and eligibility. Under the LTCFO, FEDERAL FUNDING would increase based on a yet-to-be-determined formula, but it WOULD BE CAPPED. This means that federal funding would not rise to meet potential surges in the need for long-term care. And this increased need is certain to take place, as the number of Americans over the age of 85 will double by 2030 and will quadruple by 2050.

Existing NCSL policy says it best -- Proposals to cap the Medicaid program fundamentally change the relationship between the states and the federal government by inappropriately transforming a full partnership into a limited partnership, and shifting both costs and responsibility to state governments without adequate authority to manage costs.

Although the carrot of increased flexibility is enticing to states that feel constrained by mandatory benefits or eligibility categories, flexibility can be achieved without sacrificing the federal funding stream guaranteed by the current entitlement status.

A NCSL task force developed the LTCFO proposal. At the August NCSL meeting, the NCSL Health Committee will vote on the task force's proposal. The recommendation of the Health Committee will be considered by the full NCSL board.

It is very important that we reach members of the Health Committee before August 12. Contact information along with a template message are below for your use.

2. Action Needed

HIGH PRIORITY: Please send the template message to the NCSL Health Committee Members from your state listed below by August 12.

HIGH PRIORITY: Distribute this Action Alert to others in your state and advocacy network. We need as many advocates as possible calling their state legislators to oppose LTCFO.

ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY: You can also send the template message to your personal legislators (House/Assembly and Senate) as they may communicate our concerns to their colleagues listed below. If you are unsure who your personal legislators are, visit <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials/?lv=L> or through the Project Vote Smart site and follow the prompts for choosing your state and entering your zip and address.

3. Contact information for all State Legislators, including NCSL Health Committee Members

District and Capitol Contact information for all state legislators can be found at the following websites. If your legislature is not in session, contact your elected official at his/her District Office:

A) Project Vote Smart

<http://www.vote-smart.org> – just enter the last name of the state legislator in the search window (upper left and click "go").

B) National Council on State Legislatures website

Note: VOR found the Project Vote Smart listings to be the most comprehensive:

- (1) <http://www.ncsl.org/public/leglinks.cfm>
- (2) In the left box, select your state.
- (3) In the right box, select "Legislators"
- (4) Click "Get Legislature Links"

4. NCSL Health Committee Members arranged by State

The following are the State Legislators that sit on the NCSL Health Committee. They are arranged by state in alpha order. The ones with an asterisk (*) will be present and voting at the August meeting:

ALABAMA

Honorable Locy (Sonny) Baker
Honorable Jim Barton
Honorable Ronald Grantland
*Honorable Mary Sue McClurkin
*Honorable Michael J. (Mike) Millican

ALASKA

Honorable Sharon M. Cissna
*Honorable John B. Coghill
Honorable Fred Dyson
*Honorable Kim Elton
Honorable Norman Rokeberg
Honorable Peggy Wilson

ARIZONA

*Honorable Carolyn S. Allen
Honorable Robert Cannell

ARKANSAS

*Honorable Jerry P. Bookout
Honorable Jack L. Critcher

CALIFORNIA

*Honorable Deborah Ortiz

COLORADO

*Honorable Bob Hagedorn
Honorable Brandon Shaffer

CONNECTICUT

*Honorable Toni Nathaniel Harp (VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)

DELAWARE

Honorable Patricia M. Blevins
*Honorable Liane M. Sorenson
Honorable John C. Still, III

FLORIDA

Honorable Muriel (Mandy) Dawson

Honorable Durell Peaden, Jr.
John Wilson

GEORGIA

Jill Fike (STAFF VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)
*Honorable Renee S. Unterman

IDAHO

Honorable Kathie Garrett
Honorable Margaret Henbest

ILLINOIS

Honorable Patricia R. Bellock
Honorable M. Maggie Crotty
*Honorable Mattie Hunter
Honorable Dave Syverson
Honorable Donne E. Trotter (CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)

INDIANA

Honorable Vaneta G. Becker
Honorable Billie J. Breaux
Honorable Charlie Brown
Honorable Mary Kay Budak
*Honorable Gary (Doc) P. Dillon
Honorable Benjamin E. GiaQuinta
Honorable Patricia L. Miller
*Honorable Marvin D. Riegsecker
Honorable Timothy D. Skinner
*Honorable Peggy M. Welch

IOWA

Honorable David Heaton
Honorable Amanda Ragan
*Honorable James Seymour
Honorable Mark D. Smith
*Honorable Maggie Tinsman (VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)

KANSAS

*Honorable Pete Brungardt
Honorable Don Hill

KENTUCKY

*Honorable Thomas J. Burch
Honorable Julie Denton
*Honorable Jon E. Draud
Honorable Derrick W. Graham

*Honorable Joni L. Jenkins
Honorable Stephen R. Nunn
Honorable Richard L. (Dick) Roeding
*Honorable Susan Westrom

LOUISIANA

Honorable Sydnie Mae M. Durand
Honorable Nick Gautreaux
Honorable Joe McPherson
*Honorable Sherri Smith Cheek
Honorable Monica Walker

MAINE

Honorable Darlene J. Curley
Honorable Hannah Pingree

MARYLAND

Honorable Charles R. Boutin
Honorable John P. Donoghue
*Honorable Marilyn R. Goldwater
Honorable Janet Greenip
*Honorable Paula C. Hollinger
*Honorable Delores G. Kelley
*Honorable Adrienne A. Mandel
Honorable Nathaniel T. Oaks
*Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass

MASSACHUSETTS

Honorable Jarrett T. Barrios
Honorable Harriette L. Chandler
Honorable Mark C. Montigny
*Honorable Richard T. Moore
Honorable Bruce E. Tarr

MICHIGAN

Honorable Stephen Adamini
Honorable Edward J. Gaffney
Honorable John J. Gleason
*Honorable Kevin Green
Honorable Beverly S. Hammerstrom
Honorable Gilda Z. Jacobs
*Honorable Roger Kahn
*Honorable Gary Newell

MINNESOTA

Honorable Fran Bradley

Honorable Linda I. Higgins
*Honorable Sheila M. Kiscaden
Honorable Becky Lourey
Honorable Mary Ellen Otremba
*Honorable Char Samuelson
Katherine B. Schill
*Honorable Kathy Tingelstad

MONTANA

Honorable Arlene A. Becker
*Honorable John Esp
Honorable Don Roberts
Honorable Carolyn M. Squires

NEBRASKA

*Honorable Dennis M. Byars (VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)
Honorable Douglas D. Cunningham
*Honorable Gwen Howard
*Honorable Jim Jensen
*Honorable Joel T. Johnson
Honorable Arnie E. Stuthman
*Honorable John Synowiecki

NEVADA

*Honorable Barbara K. Cegavske
Honorable Joe Hardy
Honorable Ellen M. Koivisto
Honorable Sheila Leslie
*Honorable Bernice Mathews
*Honorable Valerie Weber

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorable Peter L. Batula (VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)
Honorable Robert E. Clegg, Jr.
*Honorable Phyllis M. Katsakiores
*Honorable James (Jim) MacKay
Honorable Andre A. Martel
Honorable Pamela G. Price

NEW MEXICO

*Honorable Dede Feldman
Honorable John A. Heaton
Honorable Danice R. Picraux
Honorable Teresa A. Zanetti

NEW YORK

Honorable Kemp Hannon
Honorable Thomas P. Morahan

NORTH CAROLINA

L Carol Shaw (STAFF VICE CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)

NORTH DAKOTA

*The Honorable Ken Svedjan

OHIO

*Honorable Ray Miller
Honorable Jim Raussen
Honorable Shirley A. Smith
Honorable Lynn R. Wachtmann
Honorable John J. White
Honorable Christopher R. Widener

OKLAHOMA

Honorable Bernest H. Cain, Jr.

OREGON

Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Honorable William E. Morrisette

PENNSYLVANIA

Honorable Jacob D. Corman, III
Honorable George T. Kenney, Jr.
Honorable Jane Clare Orié
Honorable Patricia H. Vance

RHODE ISLAND

Honorable Elizabeth H. Roberts

SOUTH CAROLINA

Honorable Tracy Russell Edge
Honorable Rex Fontaine Rice
Honorable Daniel L. Tripp

SOUTH DAKOTA

Honorable Jamie M. Boomgarden
*Honorable Thomas A. Dempster
*Honorable Larry Frost
Honorable Jean Hunhoff
Honorable Elizabeth Kraus
*Honorable Kathy Miles
*Honorable Duane Sutton

*Honorable Donald D. Van Etten

TEXAS

*Honorable David L. Farabee

*Honorable Carlos I. Uresti

UTAH

Honorable Sheldon Killpack

Spencer Pratt (STAFF CHAIR, NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE)

VIRGINIA

Honorable Phillip A. Hamilton

Honorable W.B. (Benny) Keister

Honorable Stephen H. Martin

*Honorable Stephen D. Newman

Honorable Samuel A. Nixon, Jr.

*Honorable Toddy Puller

WASHINGTON

*Honorable Gary Alexander

*Honorable Barbara Bailey

Honorable Tom Campbell

Honorable Eileen L. Cody

*Honorable Karen Keiser

Honorable Dawn Morrell

Honorable Shay Schual-Berke

WEST VIRGINIA

Honorable Daniel S. Foster

Honorable Margarete R. Leach

Honorable Roman W. Prezioso, Jr.

*Honorable John R. Unger, II

WISCONSIN

Honorable Curtis C. Gielow

Honorable Gregg A. Underheim

WYOMING

*Honorable John M. Hastert

*Honorable Mike Massie

*Honorable Larry Meuli

*Honorable Charles K. Scott

5. Template Message

Dear _____:

Beginning August 12, the National Conference on State Legislators will consider the Long-Term Care Flexibility Option (LTCFO) proposal.

VOR, a national advocacy organization representing people with mental retardation and their families, urges you to oppose LTCFO, a proposal that will allow states to accept fewer federal Medicaid funds in exchange for increased flexibility. Existing NCSL policy makes the strongest case against such a proposal:

Proposals to cap the Medicaid program fundamentally change the relationship between the states and the federal government by inappropriately transforming a full partnership into a limited partnership, and shifting both costs and responsibility to state governments without adequate authority to manage costs.

Cuts and caps prevent people from accessing necessary care and will only increase the amount of state appropriations required to accommodate the individuals forced into (expensive) emergency situations. This is especially true for medically-fragile individuals with severe and profound mental retardation whose living and health care arrangements are totally dependent on Medicaid coverage. Presented with a cut in services, the end result is often ill-equipped emergency rooms and/or inappropriate nursing home placement.

Strong state leadership is necessary to ensure that our nation's admirable history of supporting our most vulnerable citizenry will not be lost to the chopping block. Please embrace Medicaid as a critical health care program for our nation's most vulnerable citizens. As a legislator, your decisions this month are truly a matter of life or death.

Sincerely,

Your name, address, contact information

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
