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National Association of State Medicaid Directors

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an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

Gene L. Dodaro  
U.S. Acting Comptroller General  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Room 7125  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

NASMD represents the 55 state and territorial Medicaid programs. In that capacity we are responsible for the care of 23.5 million children, 13.5 million aged and disabled (nursing home and community based), and 11.1 million adults; representing \$333.2 billion (FY 2007) of our nation's health care spending. Through the Medicaid program the providers are able to assure access to health care from the inner city to the most remote regions of our country.

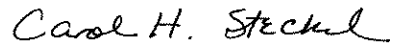
We are eager to work with you as your office analyzes state health reforms and best practices. States are the laboratories for innovation and we encourage you to consult with us as a resource for Congress's efforts to reform this country's healthcare system. We know that you were recently asked by Senate Budget Chair Kent Conrad (D-ND) and committee member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) to conduct a study on health reforms underway in the states.

As the nation's Medicaid directors we stand willing and able to provide you with our state Medicaid innovations and best practices that have proven track records at reducing costs and improving quality of care for our nation's Medicaid clients. We are confident that our work can be used to assist the national health reform efforts that will be underway with the Congress and new administration.

State Medicaid programs are challenged to be innovative under immense budgetary constraints. Medicaid programs have been called upon to address critical needs when faced with unanticipated demands arising from natural disasters, economic downturns, and other changes to the program, without the option to cherry pick our clientele. Medicaid programs have managed to provide services while costs have risen and budgets have stagnated.

As a result, NASMD believes that we are uniquely qualified to serve as a resource in your study of health reforms underway in the states. We would like to offer technical support to you and your staff at the Government Accountability Office as you take on this new study. I encourage you to contact our Executive Director Ann Kohler who will work with our membership to provide you with the information you seek for your report back to Congress. She can be reached at [ann.kohler@aphsa.org](mailto:ann.kohler@aphsa.org) or 202-682-0100 x299.

Sincerely,



Carol H. Steckel, MPH  
NASMD Chair