



NCSL



June 28, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Congressman John Dingell  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Baucus, Senator Grassley, Chairman Dingell and Congressman Barton:

On behalf of the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the American Public Human Service Association and its affiliates, including the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, we urge you to approve an extension of the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program which is set to expire on June 30, 2007.

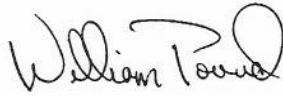
Congress has long recognized the value of ensuring that low-income families retain health care coverage even as they experience slight changes in their income. The TMA program, established in 1988, was created to temporarily extend health care coverage for former recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program after they enter the workforce. TMA allows families who are moving off of welfare and into work to remain eligible for Medicaid for at least six and up to 12 months. It has proven to be a crucial work support and an essential component of welfare reform in that it allows families to continue on a successful path towards self-sufficiency.

In the past, Congress has acted in a bipartisan fashion to extend authorization of TMA. Most recently, the "Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006," included a short-term extension of TMA through June 30, 2007. In addition, the Administration's fiscal year 2008 budget included a proposal to reauthorize TMA through September 30, 2008. Given this bipartisan support, we strongly encourage you to pass a straight reauthorization of the program before June 30, so that we may avert a disruption in health care coverage for low-income working families. In addition, we hope to work with Congress on a long-term solution for access to health care coverage for these families.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Scheppach  
Executive Director  
National Governors  
Association



William T. Pound  
Executive Director  
National Conference  
of State Legislatures



Jerry W. Friedman  
Executive Director  
American Public Human  
Services Association

Cc: Senate Finance Committee members  
House Energy and Commerce Committee members