



CHILDREN NOW



MEDIA ADVISORY
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New Report to Spotlight How Proposed Medicaid Cuts Would Harm California's Economy

June 29 Teleconference, Report Will Detail How Medicaid Cuts Could Cost California Thousands of Jobs and Billions of Dollars in Lost Business Activity; Local Health Advocates Comment on Impact to Medi-Cal & California Families

Washington, DC and Sacramento, CA —The Medicaid cuts proposed in the House-passed budget, if implemented today, would have a devastating impact on the struggling economy of California, putting thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in business activity at risk.

On Wednesday, June 29, Families USA, a national organization for health care consumers, will release a report titled "Jobs at Risk" that will detail how Medicaid cuts would damage California's economy.

As the report makes clear, cuts to Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal in California) would inflict harm not only on the health and well-being of low-income and middle-class children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities, but also on California's economy, employment, and state budget.

Specifically, the report will spotlight the potential impact to each state's economy of the budget proposal adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives, sponsored by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), which calls for cuts in federal funding to current state Medicaid programs of 5 percent in 2013, 15 percent in 2014, and 33 percent in 2021.

A teleconference for media will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2011, to discuss the new Families USA report.

WHAT: Teleconference & Release of Families USA Report "Jobs at Risk"

WHEN: 9 a.m. PDT, Wednesday, June 29, 2011

HOW: Dial in toll-free: 888-587-0613 / Confirmation code: 2276765

WHO: Ron Pollack, Executive Director, Families USA

California health care experts and advocates will be available for specific comment following the national teleconference hosted by Families USA; please use the contacts below.

On behalf of advocacy organizations representing children, families, and health consumers in California, these leaders issued the following statements:

Anthony Wright, Executive Director of **Health Access California**: “Medi-Cal is not just a lifeline for over seven million Californians, but it’s also a major economic driver for our state. Cuts of the magnitude proposed by the House GOP would not just do major damage to the health system all Californians depend on; they would undercut the fragile economic recovery of our state and our communities. There is strong support among the public for children to see a doctor when they need to, for seniors to get the nursing care they need, and for people with disabilities to live independently, and Medicaid does that.” (Contact: 916-870-4782 / awright@health-access.org)

Kelly Hardy, Health Policy Director at **Children Now**: “Members of Congress would be directly jeopardizing children’s health if they cut federal Medicaid funding or eliminate the important stability provisions intended to strengthen Medicaid as states implement the Affordable Care Act. Recent polls from the Kaiser Family Foundation, First Focus, and the Herndon Alliance show that the vast majority of voters oppose cuts to Medicaid and health care for low-income children and families as a way to reduce the federal deficit.” (Contact: 510-763-2444 x126 / khardy@childrennow.org)

Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director of **Community Health Councils**: “Current threats to the Medicaid program would seriously jeopardize the short- and long-term health and well-being of our state. California’s budget crisis has already caused the state to cut its healthcare system. Any additional loss would result in further reductions in eligibility, benefits, and participation by healthcare providers, which in turn would send millions deeper into poverty and exacerbate health disparities.” (Contact: Janice Taylor, Communications Director at 323-295-9372 x 221 / janice@chc-inc.org)

Wendy Lazarus, Founder and Co-President of **The Children’s Partnership**: “Federal proposals to reduce spending for Medicaid does nothing more than shift costs onto our already struggling state. Taking a significant amount of money out of the health care system for children and other vulnerable populations will seriously reduce their access to essential health care services and further harm California’s sluggish economic recovery.” (Contact: 310-260-1220)

Deena Lahn, Policy Director at **Children’s Defense Fund-California**: “The millions of California children in Medicaid deserve better than the federal proposals circulating within Congress. These proposals would put the future of California’s children at risk.” (Contact: 415 279-4672 / dlahn@childrensdefense.org)

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATIONS:

***Children Now** is a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization working to raise children's well-being to the top of the national policy agenda, focusing on ensuring quality health care, a solid education and a positive media environment for all children.*

***Children’s Defense Fund-California** is the California office of the Children's Defense Fund, a non-profit child advocacy organization championing policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation.*

***Community Health Councils, Inc.**, is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization whose mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, under-resourced, and underserved populations.*

***Families USA** is the national organization for health care consumers. It is nonprofit and nonpartisan, and its mission is to secure high-quality, affordable health coverage and care for all Americans.*

***Health Access** is a statewide health consumer advocacy coalition of community, labor, ethnic, senior, faith, and other organizations that has been dedicated to achieving quality, affordable health care for all Californians for over 20 years.*

***The Children’s Partnership** is a national, nonprofit child advocacy organization working to ensure that all children - especially those at risk of being left behind - have the resources and the opportunities they need to grow up healthy and to lead productive lives.*