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LEGISLATIVE ALERT: Send a letter to your U.S. Representative asking for his/her support of HR 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008.

April 7, 2008

Action Requested: NASP needs you to ask your U.S. Representative in Congress to support legislation calling for a one-year moratorium on the implementation of new Medicaid regulations.

The *Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 (HR 5613)*, sponsored by Rep. Dingell (MI) and Rep. Murphy (PA), is bipartisan legislation that seeks to impose a one-year moratorium on the implementation of certain Medicaid regulations, including the new regulations that would limit the ability of schools to seek reimbursement for transportation and administrative costs associated with providing specialized services to Medicaid-eligible students. This bill is scheduled for debate in committee this week, and NASP needs you to take one minute and send an e-mail to your elected official asking him or her to co-sponsor this bill and support it when it reaches the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote.

With the issuance of the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) rule 2287 in December 2007, schools face a real threat to their ability to pay for necessary Medicaid services in the future. This rule would curtail reimbursement of claims made for the administrative and transportation costs associated with the delivery of services to Medicaid-eligible students. Implementation of this rule has been temporarily delayed by a six-month moratorium that was in the recently passed Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007. Before July 1, Congress must act to either extend the moratorium or pass legislation that would limit the ability of CMS to make these kinds of changes without legislative action. HR 5613 seeks to impose the moratorium for an additional one-year period so that Congress has the time to work out a comprehensive Medicaid reform plan.

Since 1986, federal Medicaid policy has explicitly recognized the essential nature of the link between Medicaid and health care for low-income children whose special health care needs make management of and access to treatment in school settings an imperative. The Medicaid reimbursements are a critical source of funding for special education. Given the declining federal investment in education, the weakening national economy, and appropriations for IDEA that are still well below the authorized funding level, passage of this legislation is critical for local school districts.

Here's what we need you to do.....

Send a letter to your elected officials through the NASP Advocacy Action Center. Click on the following link and you will be guided through a simple *1-minute process* for sending an e-mail to your elected official. You only need your name and address to submit this correspondence. Click [here](#) OR

If you know the name of your U.S. Representative, you can call him or her by phone: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Once you are connected with your elected official, you will likely get a voicemail system where you should say, "Hi, my name is (your name) from (your city and state). As your constituent, I am calling to ask for your support and co-sponsorship of HR 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. I believe that this legislation is critical to protect schools from the financial hardship that would be realized if CMS rule 2287 is allowed to be implemented. Schools depend on this money to provide these essential and valuable services. If you need to reach me for any reason, you can contact me at (your phone number) or (your e-mail address)."

Forward this e-mail to any colleagues, friends, or family members that you think might be interested in participating in this effort. They do not have to be NASP members to participate.

If you are interested in reading the actual text of this bill, click [here](#), type HR 5613 in the search box, click on "bill number" button, and then click SEARCH. This will provide you with access to the text of the bill and the bill status, including whether or not your elected officials are currently co-sponsors.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts and being part of the 1-minute solution! If you have any questions or comments about this alert, please feel free to contact NASP Public Policy Director, Stacy Skalski ([click here to send an e-mail](#) or call 301-657-0270).

"I never worry about action, but only inaction."

--Winston Churchill