

Partnership for Medicaid

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on House Proposed Budget Cuts to Medicaid

The Partnership for Medicaid released the following statement in response to the House floor vote on Chairman Ryan's Path to Prosperity budget proposal for fiscal year 2012.

"The Partnership for Medicaid – a non-partisan, nationwide coalition of safety-net providers and other key organizations with a role in delivering services to Medicaid enrollees – urges you to protect the Medicaid program's long-term viability and role as a safety-net for our nation's most vulnerable populations. While we recognize the importance of reducing the deficit, the structural changes to the Medicaid program proposed in Chairman Ryan's Budget – \$771 billion in reductions attributed to block granting the program and \$627 billion from eliminating the Medicaid expansions in the Affordable Care Act, for a total of \$1.4 trillion in cuts – would simply shift costs to States, providers, and beneficiaries without actually slowing growth in underlying health care costs.

"We are concerned that changing the fundamental financing and entitlement structure of Medicaid would further undermine patients' access to care. House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan notes in his Path to Prosperity that Medicaid payments to providers are already so low that many doctors refuse to take Medicaid. Yet, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said in reference to Chairman Ryan's budget proposal to block grant Medicaid that it would require states to decrease payments to Medicaid providers further, reduce eligibility for Medicaid, provide less comprehensive coverage, or require higher out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries than would be the case under current law.

"While the Partnership is committed to the long-term stability of Medicaid for patients and providers, we are concerned proposals to block grant or cap federal spending would leave States with few options other than reducing already low provider payment rates or eroding the current system of care through onerous cuts to benefits and eligibility. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress on building upon the program's many successes, such as using the patient-centered medical home, fostering health information exchange, and promoting long term supports and services in the most appropriate setting, to ensure that this vital program reaches a sustainable footing and continues to work for the benefit of low-income children, mothers, seniors and people with disabilities."

The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing doctors, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties and labor. For more information visit: www.thepartnershipformedicaid.org

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