

Submitter :

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization :

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not eliminate this program. Schools are a source of health-related costs. Why would you penalize them?

Submitter : Mike Schofield

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : High Desert Education Service District

Category : Local Government

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Fraud, waste and abuse are conditions that may have been uncovered in certain program areas. However, in Dechutes and Crook Counties in Central Oregon, the MAC monies have provided a vital referral link for needy families. Without the outreach efforts of our 'FAN' advocates, many of our young children will not receive the services and education that is so vital to a good start in life. We are saddened by the funding elimination for this vital program in Central Oregon.

Please, please isolate the fraud, waste and abuse and remove the participants from the program, but please allow organized programs with good track records to continue. Do not allow this neglect of a few, cause the disintegration of the program for those who are in compliance with the objective of the grants.

Thanks for your consideration.

Mike Schofield
High Desert Education Service District

Submitter :

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization :

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Medicaid dollars support our Family Access Network (FAN) which helps meet basic health care, food, and housing needs of low income students and families in our area. FAN advocates are a vital part of our community services for children in need. I would urge you not to eliminate funding for a program which positively affects the living conditions of impoverished families in this community. Thank you.

Submitter : Dr. Sheri Coburn

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : Dr. Sheri Coburn

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Eliminating this reimbursement program will have significant impact on impoverished children who need access to care. Funding from this program has supported school health services, 25% of all parents in our district reported receiving necessary health information and services from our schools. Outreach activities support the acquisition of insurance for needy children to minimize barriers to learning. Eliminating this funding will again widen the gap between the haves and the have nots. It is critical that this funding be continued.
Thank you.

Submitter : Bonnie Winther

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : Bonnie Winther

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I oppose this rule. Once again our government is turning its back on children. Funding from this program provides access to medicaid system so that children can receive the health services they need.

Submitter : Ms. Cheryl Rollins-Allen
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Individual

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am opposed to the proposed regulation from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CMS-2287-P. Federal reimbursement for the costs of school staff that performs MAA administrative activities, outreach, monitoring of medical services, is critically important to children who need medical services. The proposed change will greatly impact Chino Valley Unified School District's financial resources that are used to provide staff support for the health and mental health services for our students.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this very important issue.

Cheryl Rollins-Allen

Submitter : Ms. Gretchen Hatfield

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : Ms. Gretchen Hatfield

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am extremely concerned about the possibility that Medicare & Medicaid reimbursements may not be reimbursed to schools. The nation is suffering from a severe lack of school funding. Schools look for funds where ever they are available and spend numerous hours writing grants. Why eliminate a source of funding that already exists and benefits the children?? No new funds need to be found, just continue using what has been reimbursed in the past.

Submitter : Holly Lange

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : Holly Lange

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

It is urgent that CMS 2287-P not pass. This program funds our FAN advocates in our schools. FAN advocates provide many essential services to children and families that directly impact their ability to learn and thrive.

Submitter : Mrs. Susan Salmina

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : Mrs. Susan Salmina

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This funding helps pay for School Nursing services in my district. There is extreme health issues in my rural community and a lack of resources. I service 3500 students. Recommended ratio is 750 students to 1 school nurse. If you continue to eut funding sources such as this, students will have no resources. If you are going to cut funding that assists our schools then you need to stop passing legislature that requires more services to be performed that are unrealistic based on money sources. I was a school nurse back in 1987 have returned after raising my children, and the school systems are in worse shape now than they were then! We have sicker children, more demanding laws and unrealistic expectations based on staffing (due to lack of funds). The choice to eliminate the of reimbursement for school expenditures and costs...is wrong based on my professional opinion. And I am a concerned voter.

Submitter : Mr. Steve Ott

Date: 10/04/2007

Organization : School Psychologist-Clovis Unified School Dist

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a school psychologist who works with students with severe disabilities, as well as students who are considered medically fragile. All of the students within this population have significant needs (i.e. health and medical support, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and transportation) that must be met in order for them to receive a FREE and APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE) as granted by federal legislation. I support Governor Schwarzenegger in opposing this potential change as it would severely impact state and local districts. The financial impact would undoubtedly be felt by all students, staff, and school communities, and affect many other programs in an effort to reallocate available money to make up for the loss of incoming revenue. I would urge anyone who is involved in this decision to visit a center that serves students in the severely disabled population. Following that visit I would then challenge them to attempt and argue that the health and medical, therapeutic, and transportation needs of those students are not paramount, and an absolute priority in the efforts of schools to meet the individual needs of these special students. To quote the article in question, "The Bush administration's narrow view is that disabled children are 'transported from home to school primarily to receive an education, not to receive direct medical services.'" This may be accurate when referring to learning disabled children, but it is impossible to separate these special needs of severely disabled children, or medically fragile students from the "educational" benefit they receive from their school program. The life skills, functional skills, and adaptive skills that these students are being taught are as important for them in their life as actual academics are for non-disabled students. Federal law continues to mandate schools to serve students who have disabilities, but now wants to remove the financial support to do so? This type of thinking is not just illogical, it is hypocritical, potentially exclusionary, and flat out unfair.

Submitter : Beth Kunkel
Organization : Parent/grandparent
Category : Individual

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As a parent/grandparent who has received school based medicaid services when other services were not available for my dependents, I would like to speak against the abolition of these services to our children. The school is a perfect place to screen children for health care needs and to make appropriate referrals to specialists. Please continue to fund health care in the schools.

Submitter : Mrs. Malinda Diaz
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Academic

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am opposed to the proposed regulation from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CMS-2287-P. Federal reimbursement for the costs of school staff that performs MAA administrative activities, outreach, monitoring of medical services, is critically important to children who need medical services. The proposed change will greatly impact Chino Valley Unified School District's financial resources that are used to provide staff support for the health and mental health services for our students.

Submitter : Ms. Cynthia Allen
Organization : Special Education Teacher
Category : Other Health Care Professional

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am writing in opposition to the proposed regulation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicated Services CMS-2287-P. Federal reimbursement for the costs of school staff that performs MAA administrative activities, outreach, monitoring of medical services. The proposed change will greatly impact Chino Valley Unified School District's financial resources that are used to provide staff support for the health and mental health services of out students.

Cynthia Allen

Submitter : Mrs. Kendra Moore
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Occupational Therapist

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

October 4, 2007

To: Whom It May Concern:

Re: Docket CMS-2287-P Medicaid Program;

Elimination of Reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration Expenditures and Costs Related to Transportation of School-Age Children between Home and School

I urge you to reconsider the proposed legislation CMS-2287-P which will eliminate Medicaid funding to schools that provide health services for children who need it the most.

I work for Chino Valley Unified School District, in the Special Education Department that supports school-based administrative activities for students who are in need of health care. Our School District provides much needed school-based Medicaid services such as Medi-Cal outreach, coordination and monitoring of medical care of our students. Without the School-Based federal funding, I believe that the health of our special needs students will be greatly impacted. With out the Federal funds, we will be forced to dramatically reduce the health and mental health programs that our students are in need of.

I urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to rescind their proposal CMS-2287-P.

Thank you for reconsidering this very important matter.

Kendra Moore
Occupational Therapist
Chino Valley Unified School District
5130 Riverside Drive
Chino, CA 91710
(909)628-1201x2049

Submitter : Mrs. Nanette MacPherson
Organization : Mrs. Nanette MacPherson
Category : Local Government

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This rule will eliminate one of the most effective tools we have for helping students and families in our low income area (Our school is over 60% Free & reduced). Family Access Network (FAN) is funded in the Bend LaPine School District by these dollars @ over 60%. FAN touches the life of many of our students in many areas. The two that I consider most effective are dental and in supplying warm clothing for our cold winters. Our FAN Advocate is onsite half-time and works hard to coordinate services that are sorely needed in this rural area where most help comes from Bend which is 30 miles away. Having access to local services is a huge benefit to our students.

Submitter : Dr. Frances Eldis
Organization : Children's Hospital of Michigan
Category : Speech-Language Therapist

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am in support of cutting funding to the schools for speech-language services for Medicaid eligible children. Many of the children have medically based (not educationally based) oral language disorders that can best be treated in a clinical setting. In addition, children are being short-changed in terms of services because they rarely receive more than 20 minutes of therapy per week (unless they are in severely mentally impaired programs) nor do they receive individual treatment which is what many of them need. This amount of time for treatment is ineffective for serious communication impairments such as language disorders and language-based learning disorders. Language is a specific brain function - a medical condition.

Medicaid funds can best be spent where effective treatment of serious communication disorders can be provided.

Thank you for the opportunity of providing my comments.

Submitter : Ms. Michele Fuqua
Organization : San Jose City College
Category : Academic

Date: 10/04/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please continue funding for this program - it allows us to sufficiently communicate the availability of Medi-Cal Health insurance services to a large amount of our student population who are unfamiliar with the insurance, but are qualified. Not only does it eventually assist these students and their families directly with meeting their health needs, but there is a huge benefit to all of our students, as we use the funds we receive for this communication service to fund a vast array of programs specific to health and safety issues. We have successfully launched interventions for stopping smoking; an obesity avoidance exercise and diet program; as well as specific workshops such as dating violence and STDS awareness. We have also been able to send staff in our Health Services center to many training and other conferences. Without these funds (administrative fees), such training would not be possible, as there is not sufficient funds available in the schools general operational budget. We are also able to assist students who are still very needy, but not qualified for Medi-Cal insurance, to pay for needed medication and preventative materials.