

Submitter : Mrs. Pam Meerdink

Date: 10/05/2007

Organization : Lodi Unified

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am extremely disappointed that you intend to cut the MAA and medicaid money we receive now for our special needs students. The schools are taxed as it is with not enough money to support this population. More medically fragile children are coming to school on respirators with complex problems. We have many students on insulin, with glucagon and epi-pens, and inhalers and nebulizers. Non medical personal are being trained to handle simple needs but nurses are needed to handle the complex problems and assessments. We also have parents pushing for more care while in school. How do you expect the schools to pay dfor this? Ths nurses are scattered all over the district trying to cover these medical needs. I hope you will visit some school districts and follow a nurse to see the real problems. Pam Meerdink

Submitter : Ms. Sandra Stellflug
Organization : Three Rivers School District
Category : Individual

Date: 10/05/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am submitting my disagreement with the change proposed for CMS-2287-P. Elimination of the reimbursement would deeply impact the schools. We are not performing Medicaid administrative duties when this fund match is claimed, but rather acting as triage for students and families that need to know what services are available to them. The actual services are done by those we refer to. The funds received from the matching program assist us in providing other in-house counseling, health center services and medically related options for our students and families. In our depressed area, we are in need of any services we can access to assist our students in overcoming great odds of distance and poverty. Our health center is integral to the community and our school. To change this law would be capricious in nature and deny assistance to those families who need it most.

Submitter : Mrs. Terri Basaites
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Academic

Date: 10/05/2007

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 : Miss. Jessica Saint Paul

Date: 10/05/2007

Organization : Jordan High School Based Health Clinic

Category : Physician Assistant

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please preserve quality services provided by Schools and do not eliminate school transportation that provides services for our most deserving population.

Submitter : Mr. Paul Joens-Poulton

Date: 10/05/2007

Organization : Laytonville Unified School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

MAA funding in our district allows for extremely valuable physical and mental health services to reach our students. Over 65% of the students in this district qualify for the National Free/Reduced Lunch Program. Without MAA funding available to provide the necessary support services for student and their families they would not have the access and services that currently exist. As a school principal and director of special education services I see the impact these resources have to our students and the community. These dollars reach the kids and families that need it most. Please continue to support the students and their families continuing the Medicaid for School Administration program. This funding is vital in our small, isolated community.

Submitter :

Date: 10/05/2007

Organization : San Jose City College

Category : Physician

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As a physician, I have seen the many benefits that the MAA program has had on our college campus. We connect students and their families to Medi-Cal Health Insurance Programs and enable them to better their health by seeking medical care in a timely fashion. We have developed many programs that are supported by the reimbursements. Included in these programs are programs that educate the students regarding proper health and nutrition to maintain longterm health. We also have developed a program focusing on exercise and nutrition to combat obesity, not only amongst our college-aged students, but also among the faculty and staff.

Through the reimbursements, we also have developed a program focusing on self-reliance, parenting and support for women returning to school. This has enabled students to be better parents and to stay in school given the additional responsibilities of parenthood. I very strongly feel that it is important to continue to support such programs, and we heavily rely on the reimbursements in order to do so. The impact that has been made, is so clear to see, and we would like to continue to be able to support our students. We were also able to give a lecture to our football students focusing on dating violence, given the immense nature of this problem. It was so well received, and we would like to offer this college-wide. Please continue to support us, and in so doing, the next generation of young Americans.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Submitter : Mrs. Cheryl Leigh
Organization : Clinica Adelante, Inc.
Category : Nurse Practitioner

Date: 10/06/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

It is really sad the day we start limiting funds for the education of our children, the next generation. School districts across the country struggle everyday to maintain status quo while delivering the education needed for students to function in todays society. The Medicaid program helps to provide services to students needing special attention & services they probably would not get anywhere else. Please keep in mind the current uninsured rate in the United States is around 49 million; many families benefit from the services schools are able to provide in school based clinics. And, yes, there are administrative time and costs related to delivering these services. Please. Please, do not short change the students who benefit from these very important services.

Submitter : Ms. Pamela Palmer
Organization : Bend-La Pine Schools
Category : Academic

Date: 10/06/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a special education administrator in our school district, and have previously been a special education teacher. I have had an opportunity to see firsthand the benefits to students and families of the Family Access Network program that is funded through these medicaid dollars. Our 'FAN' coordinators have access to resources and support outside of the school to help these families with everything from warm clothing, school supplies, and medical care, to support with basic needs like food and housing. We all know that students can't learn when basic needs are not met. This program is able to do that in a very real way. In a time of increased attention to fiscal responsibility, I admire the commitment to be judicious with money that is spent on social programs. This is one we really can't afford to lose. It is my hope that funding for programs like FAN will continue.

Thank you, Pamela Palmer

Submitter : Mrs. Mary Johnston

Date: 10/06/2007

Organization : School Nurse-Teacher for Coventry Public Schools

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not eliminate payment to schools and school districts for performing Medicaid administrative functions and provision of services: CMS-2287-P. It would severely impact the care and treatment for the many special education students who need the services provided by professional school employees that delivery such services. It is extremely costly to provide these services, and they are often mandated by federal education laws. The local municipalities and state tax burdens on the residents are maxed out. The local school departments are running in deficits as it is.

Submitter : Ms. Annette Cleveland
Organization : Magnolia School District, Special Education
Category : Academic

Date: 10/06/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

On behalf of the Magnolia School District and the children we serve, I oppose the rule changes that will no longer reimburse school districts for the Medi-Cal required services provided to students and their families. School Districts have become the payer of last resort when Federal and State Agencies make mandates of services that MUST be provided and then relinquish the promised reimbursed funding that is associated.

In our district, we spend over \$2 million more than what we receive to provide special education and related health services. Since the health services are mandated, we do not have the option of making cuts to the programs or services to students as required by law. We support the health of students with life threatening medical conditions by having highly trained staff ride the buses with them, monitor their breathing, suction their mucus, empty their catheters, g-tube feed them their nutrients, administer their medications, provide painless injections, adjust their oxygen levels, and ultimately KEEP THEM ALIVE as required by LAW. We did not make these laws, legislation did!

I ask that you continue to fund the Medicaid reimbursement program in order that students can continue to LIVE and participate in their Free and Appropriate Public Education. I invite you to come visit our students firsthand before you make your decision. Come and see them thrive, smile, breathe, and learn under the care and support of staff that provide mandatory life supporting health related services to them on a daily basis. If I cannot convince you to continue the funding maybe one of them can. Come ride a bus with a child to better understand the urgent and critical needs of those you impact.

If programs are mandatory, thus should be the funding associated to the mandates. To NOT fund these services is criminal.

Sincerely,
Annette M. Cleveland
Administrator, Special Education
Magnolia Elementary School District
714-761-5533

Submitter : Mrs. Margaret Go
Organization : FHC Family Home Care
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/06/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

School districts are already strapped for cash. This ruling would further diminish their ability to function. They may stop providing transportation at all or cut it back.

Since education and inclusive environments are a medical as well as social concern, I would like to see a 50/50 sharing of the expense. In addition districts should be encouraged to include special needs children on their regular buses rather than special busses and routes just for them. If they are to be included at school, the bus should start the inclusion process unless there is some objection. Many of the children have aids or nurses who accompany them. These caretakers, by their presence on the bus may encourage better and appropriate behavior by the 'normal' as well as the differently-abled children. If the children are not accompanied by an aide, there would need to be a provision of a 'bus aide' to help keep order and protect the special need individual. Thank you for receiving comments. I hope this is some help to you in making a fair and merciful decision.

Submitter : Patricia Christie

Date: 10/07/2007

Organization : Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

CMS-2287-P

Medicaid services are being provided for students in the school setting by appropriately licensed school personnel. These services should be reimbursed. These are critically needed resources for health promotion, prevention and early intervention services.

Submitter : Ms. Peggy Ramsey

Date: 10/07/2007

Organization : Ms. Peggy Ramsey

Category : Physical Therapist

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am appalled at the intent of this proposal to eliminate the schools from taking Medicaid applications. This procedure saves valuable time and resources for working families. Without it, many children will not be enrolled and this will further increase the all ready abysmal numbers of persons without healthcare coverage in this country. Please reconsider.

Submitter : Mrs. Jacqueline Lessard
Organization : Fitchburg Public School
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/07/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

In regard to CMS-2287-P I urge you not to cut funding for medicaid reimbursements to school districts. Without medicaid reimbursements many students would be without transportation or medical care allowing them to attend school. The opportunity of the regular education environment promotes and encourages independence within this population and fosters autonomy. Reducing reimbursements would be disastrous to school districts and personnel putting greater strains on overburdeoned system as it is. My community has endured \$15 million in cuts to the school system in recent years . A school system primarily made up of socioeconomically challenged children of color, how much more can we take away from these children ? They deserve an education and will lose more resources to help them if school systems are required to be burdeoned with these costs. I urge you to reject this rule.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lessard RN
Bf Brown Middle School
Fitchburg, MA

Submitter :**Date: 10/07/2007****Organization :****Category : Congressional****Issue Areas/Comments****GENERAL**

GENERAL

Dear Congress: Plenty has been done, and left undone, in the past 7 years to bring ridicule and shame on the good name of the United States. Bush, Cheney, Blackwater, Abu Ghraib - just to name a few of the culprits of our international infamy - have done an enormous amount of damage to America's image as a bastion of peace, honor, good will, and the principles of democracy. It is infuriating to see that this administration is now determined to continue this record of abuse of America's good name on the home front - attempting to knock out federal support for Medicaid's reimbursement of support services for eligible disabled children. A people can be judged by how they treat the least among them, and in particular their children, and this proposal to cut funding would be a terrible injustice. For a so-called born-again Christian president to support such a decision is appalling. How many times does the New Testament emphasize helping the poor? Being kind? Serving those in need? It is truly astounding that this is Bush's way of saving a few hundred million dollars, when the irresponsible Republican-created budget is in the trillions and the Iraq War approaches half a trillion.

For me, a public high school teacher, I see the ramifications coming down the road if this decision is made: thanks to the "no new taxes / tax cut mania" of the Bush Regime, my school no longer has any school bus service, all student lockers have been removed instead of being replaced, and our site-refurbishing money (due at age 20, our school is now 18 years old) has been postponed another 5 years. Do you think that things at my school will improve when this decision kicks in and our district has to make more cuts? Do you think that this decision is in harmony with "No Child Left Behind?" No, it's in tune with "No Dollar Left Out of the War Chest". God damn George W. Bush and the Republican administration that ought to be tried and convicted for treason - and imprisoned for life if not worse..... and if this Medicaid de-funding proposal goes through, there isn't a level in Dante's Inferno far enough down, and hot enough, for those who make this happen. Make sure it doesn't

Submitter : Mrs. Pat Jackson
Organization : Mrs. Pat Jackson
Category : Congressional

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This must be a mistake. Why would you take away services to students who would most likely not receive them unless the school provides these services. I know money is tight but there are other areas that can be cut without effecting the children who need special attention. Thanks, for your support and care of our children. Pat Jackson

Submitter : Dr. JoEllen Tarallo Falk
Organization : Center for Health and Learning
Category : Health Care Professional or Association

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Eliminating medicaid reimbursements to schools will effectively eliminate many school health services and the coordination of many critical prevention and early intervention health programs in schools. These funds support school nursing, substance abuse prevention and the development of critical health policy in schools. Please maintain or expand the level of reimbursement currently provided.

Submitter : Mr. Alejandro Romillo
Organization : Health Choice Network, Inc.
Category : Other Health Care Professional

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Preventive care is the biggest oversight in our healthcare crisis. Please reconsider since our children our truly are our future! Support school health its truly our first line of defense to protect are children and many times the only medical home they have.

Submitter : Beth Greenwood
Organization : Shasta Community Health Center
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not make this change. In rural areas particularly, schools provide a valuable service to children who otherwise would not receive medical care. Transportation in particular is vitally important as there are often no or inadequate transportation options.

Submitter : Mrs. Pauline Pruneau

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Mrs. Pauline Pruneau

Category : Other Health Care Professional

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not eliminate reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration.

Many children come to school unable to learn. Medicaid matching funds provide prevention programs and Health Services in schools giving care to those children and families otherwise unable to access medical services. These programs are essential to the growth and development of many of our children. If you cut these funds you are eliminating prevention programs and services that support academic achievement for our children.

Submitter : Linda McEntire
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Individual

Date: 10/08/2007

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 School District in the Health Services 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.

Linda McEntire
Chino Valley Unified School District
5130 Riverside Dr.
Chino, CA 91710

Submitter : Ms. Lynn Lanier
Organization : duluth Public School
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am Licesned School Nurses in Duluth and Supervise Para Professionals and LPNS to do Medication management and medical servies in the school setting. The last fww years we have been able to bill for medication management and nursing serives performed to students. I strongly feel that we should be reimbursed for these servics as we are licensed people that have a multitude of othr expectations in the school setting. This is the one area that we as professionals can recieve soem money back into a program. Like any other agency that performs a service, the schools should be reimbursed!!!

CMS-2287-P-246

Submitter : Miss. Jennifer Smith
Organization : Ramona Junior High School
Category : Academic

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

See Attachment

CMS-2287-P-246-Attach-1.DOC

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 the Chino Valley Unified School District, at the Ramona Junior High School in Chino 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.

Jennifer Smith
Intervention School Counselor
Chino Valley Unified School District
5130 Riverside Dr., Chino, CA 91710
(909) 627-9144 Ext. 7573



Submitter : Ms. Riza Querubin-Derro
Organization : Tustin Unified School District
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The pending decision to eliminate reimbursements for Medicaid covered services in school will not benefit the children of America. When IDEA was passed, it provided access to free and appropriate public education despite their medical conditions. In order to keep them safe in school, nurses must be on site for management, monitoring, and delivery of nursing procedures. No one else in the community has the skills and education to handle these kids needs. Because they are highly specialized care that doctors, and nurses in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities get reimbursed for, I strongly believe, schools should be able to recoup the cost of these services as well. Otherwise, it will force districts to make cuts, and children will lose.

Submitter : Devi Tong RN

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As the Educational System is required to provide an equal opportunity for all students to learn, it becomes their burden to provide all the services necessary for the students care while at school. Thus, money designated for education is diverted to expensive medical care for a growing population of students. This is money that was provided for their care in their previous facilities by Medicaid, and should be continued in the school setting. General Education tudents that receive medical assistance from us also save resources by not needing transportation to other facilities and not costing parents lost wages for time accompanying them to appointments.

Submitter : Regie Stites

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Regie Stites

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

OPPOSE. Schools are an important place to facilitate kids getting medical services.

Submitter :

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization :

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a attance secretary at a public school. I have NOT seen an increase in attendance, I think the program is abused, teachers are encouraged to lie. This program is a waste of taxpayers' money. The money could be put to much better use.

Submitter : Dr. Dianne Kerr

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Kent State University

Category : Other Health Care Professional

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This is a bad idea! Medicaid matching funds supports core public health staff in the schools. We know that in several districts, the administrative match has provided critically needed resources for school-based health promotion, prevention and early intervention services. This will severely hurt school nurses and school-based health care which is already poorly funded.

Submitter : Mrs. Dianne Polasik

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : ISD 834

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

If a student requires special education bussing to get to school to receive medicaid reimbursed services, I believe the school district should be reimbursed for that student's transportation.

Submitter : Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick
Organization : Pajaro valley Unified School District
Category : Nurse Practitioner

Date: 10/08/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Schools are often the interface between families and the health care system. Our district has school nurses and health service assistants who are actively involved in making sure students are enrolled in a health plan and access needed medical services. All school staff members need basic information about how to make referrals for physical and mental health problems, even if just to the school nurse, school psychologist, or school mental health counselor. Without viewing our students holistically, many of them will fail to make the educational progress the federal government is claiming to facilitate via NCLB. We need more, rather than less resources to make these important health connections.

Submitter : Miss. Ryann Harris

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Newport Mesa Unified School District

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am shocked that the program bringing access to health care for so many is actually thinking about taking away one of their front lines of access being school nurses in public schools. The majority of our students do not have health insurance and the first provider they see often times is a school nurse. Health assistant are not trained in medicine and to look for symptoms of serious mental and physical illnesses. By getting rid of this funding you will deteriorate health care to thousands of children in our school district alone. These children need us to be here to catch things that could affect them for the rest of their lives.

Submitter : Ms. Rebecca Dittimore-Escalante

Date: 10/08/2007

Organization : Marysville Joint Unified School District

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Honorable President Bush,

The targeted halt to expenditures related to the transportation of students within our school district would be devastating. Many of our families rely on other means of transportation, other than an automobile. Our counties' parents utilize public transportation as a means for commuting from work, shopping, and schooling. Numerous students wake themselves up on school day and get themselves to the local bus stop, without parent involvement. If they didn't have transportation (busing) they would just stay home. Our students actually enjoy coming to school, a reprieve from their home lives.

I ask that you continue helping our children grow, through education

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Dittimore-Escalante

Marysville Joint Unified School District

School Nurse

Submitter : Judy Scales

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Judy Scales

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The proposal to end Medicaid Administrative Reimbursement (MAC) for schools is not well reasoned. Schools are the connecting points kids and families. It is the one place where kids can be identified as needing medical and health services -- and the most opportune place for parents to learn about healthy kids and where they get health services for kids. The MAC funding to our county schools has been instrumental in helping thousands and thousand of children get shots, medical and dental services, examinations, eye care and mental health services. I cannot begin to tell you the number of families that have been positively impacted through the use of these funds or the heart renching stories that go along with them. Kids come to school every day with tooth aches, headaches, and all kinds of issues that keep them from learning. If we truly want to leave no child behind then these children and their families need to be able to access services to help them. This program is definitely not a welfare program or a handout to poor people who don't want to work -- and it's definitely not a waste of money. This program is a part of an educational program that saves money in so many ways. When kids get the medical attention they need they will be healthy individuals who will be able to learn and who will be able to grow up, get a job and pay those taxes. Please be reasonable and look at the good that this program accomplishes.

Submitter : Mrs. Joann Sanchez
Organization : Albuquerque Public Schools
Category : Academic

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

All children need more supports, including health services, to be successful in school and as our future. This also helps meet the "No Child Left Behind" requirement. A healthy student has a much better chance at succeeding. There is nothing more important for everyone's future than our children. This program is beneficial to many and should not be cut. Thank you.

Submitter : Meri-de Mercado

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Monroe County School District

Category : Local Government

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

8,000 or more students will be negatively impacted by the proposed rule changes. These reimbursement dollars fund some of the cost to provide school health services. Healthy students make better learners. Please feel free to call me with any questions, comments or concerns that you may have. 305.293.1400 x 53360. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the students in Monroe County Florida.

Submitter : Sandra Munson

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am opposed to the elimination of MA reimbursement for schools. All children have a right to a free and appropriate public education. However, some children with complex health needs require care over and above the norm and the educational system should not be any further burdened with these medical costs. If I work in a home setting and provide service and cares which are reimbursed through Medicaid, why then would I not be able to seek reimbursement for the same activities in the school setting???

Submitter : Mrs. Janet Muldoon
Organization : Polk County Public Health
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Understanding that there can be a huge tax base and population disparity among school districts, for some, the elimination of this program would cause great financial hardship. In rural areas transporting students is very expensive and getting worse with rising fuel costs. It is almost unthinkable that parents and educators who have worked so hard for so many years to allow children with special needs to be part of a regular school system have to face the possibility that school districts would no longer be able to receive the necessary funding to transport these children safely to school. It seems to me the effort should go to developing a way to maintain the current system with tighter controls.

Submitter : Mr. Jim Sappington
Organization : Amory School District
Category : Other Government

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not eliminate the Medicaid School-Based Administrative Claiming. Our schools have hired nurses, developed routine health and dental screens and parent education practices, dependent upon funds from the Medicaid Administrative claiming. Please allow us to continue to provide the services. We can only afford to do so with the funds recieved from Medicaid.

Submitter : Ms. Patricia Steel
Organization : none
Category : Federal Government

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am STRONGLY opposed to the MAA rulemaking. This cut in funding would jeopardize our local Healthy Start, which provides critical services to families in our area. Please do not go through with this proposal.

Submitter : Ms. Suzanne Martin Martin
Organization : United South Central Schools
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

First we have gone through years of setting up programing and meetings and forms to put this program in place and now you want to axe it? Typical waste of government time and money I would say. I am a Licensed School Nurse working in the school system. We have students with multiple handicaps that need the assitance of handicap vans and staff to assist in transport. The govenment votes to place these fragile children in the school system and tell us we have to educate them but then will cut off the funds to do so. When do the schools begin to take priority over football fields and recreational spending? How are these children to get to school? Who foots the bills for that? I am offended as a tax payer, as a nurse and as a parent that this is even being considered.

Submitter : Ms. Shawna Bell
Organization : Sisters Oregon City Council
Category : Local Government

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am currently a City Councilor for Sisters, Oregon. I am formerly a Family Advocate for the Family Access Network in Deschutes County. 63% of the funding for the Family Access Network comes from the Medicare Reimbursement funds that you are proposing to eliminate.

I would like to let you know how these reimbursement funds are being used in Deschutes County Oregon and specifically in the city of Sisters. The Family Access Network employes a part time Family Advocate in each of our public schools. These Advocates help our low income children and families gain access to basic needs services such as Oregon Health Plan, prescription assistance, dental care, medical care, food, clothing, and housing to name a few services. Our mission is to connect these children to services in order to eliminate roadblocks to getting an education and breaking the cycle of poverty. It is an amazing organization and I have personally seen the impact to our local families that have received this assistance. They are now able to concentrate in school because they have new glasses or no longer in dental pain or have their ADHD medication. It is a proven fact that education can break the cycle of generational poverty and I have seen how this can be accomplished through these Advocates in our schools.

Please, please, please do not eliminate these reimbursement funds as it will eliminate the Family Access Network (FAN) program in Deschutes County and the ability to help over 6800 children and families per year in getting a better education.

Sincerely,
Shawna Bell
Sisters City Council and former Family Advocate for FAN

Submitter : Ms. Sandy Landry

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Ms. Sandy Landry

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I want you to continue to support schools getting "administrative activities" reimbursement. They are required to provide for the health and safety of their students and collaborating with the individual and professional organizations in the community will save us all tax dollars.

Submitter : Mrs. April Aleman

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Merced union High School District

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Do not get rid of this program. It pays for school health services which are lacking in the no child left behind legislation.

Submitter : Mr. James S Jurdak
Organization : Department of Public Schools Augusta ME
Category : Academic

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As the school department's business administrator I see first hand how valuable our school based health center is to our middle and high school students. The ability to provide services to these students, during the school day, is tremendous. No where else can these young adults receive on site care by a nurse practitioner or an MD, quickly and confidentially.

Our health center has only been operational for two plus years and the utilization level has increased every quarter. We have recently expanded services to the high school and expect an ever higher utilization rate there.

The reimbursement we receive (only a few thousand dollars) allows us to have matching funds for grants, in addition to expanding services.

I request that funding continue to allow our health center to be an important part of our student s lives.

If you wish to correspond please contact me at:

Phone(207) 626-2468 ext 3202

Fax (207) 626-2444

Email jjurdak@augustaschools.org

I encourage you to consider this request for continued funding.

James S. Jurdak
Business Administrator
Dept of Public Schools
Superintendent's Office
12 Gedney Street
Augusta ME 04330

Submitter : Mrs. Gina DeCoste

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Mrs. Gina DeCoste

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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CMS should provide extensive technical assistance to State's that seek to optimize children's opportunities to receive needed school-based health care so that they may learn in community educational settings instead of being forced to remain at home, all of which is fully permitted under current law. School settings are a logical and convenient place to identify and enroll children in coverage under Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP). The funding serves a variety of purposes, such as providing medical equipment for buses to meet specific children's needs, providing specialized transportation and reinforcing therapy and behavioral goals for students.

Submitter : Mrs. Alberta Longacre

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Mesa Public Schools

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please stop proposed rule CMS2287P. I work in a school district and it will deny services to our students who need them most.

Submitter : Mrs. Janice Fujii
Organization : Contra Costa SELPA
Category : Academic

Date: 10/09/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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This Medicaid money is essential to support the neediest students! Rule 2261 is very, very bad legislation, and will undermine the very purpose of the program, eroding coverage for, and therefore access to services needed by many of our most vulnerable children. If the bureaucrats had one chance to look into the eyes of a medically fragile child, and see the kind of life that they have, this rule would never have been proposed. All I am asking is that you continue to give us the means to help these children!

Submitter : Ms. Mary VanValkenburgh

Date: 10/09/2007

Organization : Caring Connections

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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The Case Managers for the Bellflower Unified School District provide vital services to low income students and their families in this area. Caring Connections is one of the best collaboratives I have ever seen, and to have this service ended would be a severe blow to this community. The case managers are on the front line in dealing with all kinds of problems that prevent students from benefitting from their school experience. Please keep this vital program intact! Thank you!