

Submitter : Dr. Earl Watkins

Date: 10/11/2007

Organization : Jackson Public School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The Jackson Public School District is submitting this comment on the proposed rule change by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the Medicaid school-based administrative claiming (CMS-2287-P). Notice of the submitted comments will be forwarded to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation.

The Jackson Public School District (JPS) adamantly opposes the proposed CMS rule change to Medicaid school-based administrative claiming. The proposed rule change will eliminate reimbursement under the Medicaid program for the costs of school-based administrative and transportation services and limit reimbursements to only administrative services performed specifically by Medicaid employees. We anticipate several problems from the proposed rule change:

1. Mississippi's large population of low-income students (highest in the nation) will suffer inordinately due to the loss of Medicaid reimbursement funds, the main source of coverage for health care services to the poor. JPS alone has a student poverty rate of 82% (based on free/reduced lunch eligibility).
2. The loss of Medicaid funds as a result of the proposed rule change will not be offset by any other source. There are no plans to offset the loss through IDEA, which is already underfunded, and state and local revenue sources are likewise overtaxed.
3. The proposed rule change will be cutting funds to more than 90 school districts in Mississippi that participate in the program. JPS is the largest and only urban school district in the state, placing it in a unique position to provide Medicaid reimbursable services to a large group of at-risk students whose needs would otherwise go unaddressed.
4. It has been estimated that the proposed rule change will cost Mississippi schools between \$4 - 5 million each year in Medicaid reimbursements. The Jackson Public School District will lose more than \$313,000 dollars each year from an already insufficient student services budget.

While JPS acknowledges the concerns of CMS regarding the inconsistent application of Medicaid requirements by school districts, there seem to be far less drastic avenues for addressing these and other concerns. For example, in Mississippi the School Based Administrative Claiming Program is housed in the Mississippi Department of Education, which provides training and technical support for processing claims. This allows for the improvement and standardization of claims while still offering the opportunity to receive funding that will assist with providing services to children that are greatly needed. If the problem is that states are billing improperly, CMS should provide training, monitoring, and auditing to ensure proper billing policies are followed rather than eliminate the program.

In addition, the proposed rule change appears to have a conflict with current law. Title XIX Section 1903 (c) of the Social Security Act forbids the Secretary of Health & Human Services to deny reimbursement for claims related to eligible services for children and students with disabilities. School-based claiming was also legally protected in the 1987 Bowen case, when the appellate court ruled that school-based claims were reimbursable, and the Supreme Court elected to let that decision stand.

For these reasons, the Jackson Public School District states for the record its opposition to the CMS proposed rule change for the Medicaid school-based administrative claiming. The proposed rule change does not equitably address the concerns of improper billing by school districts, improper allocation to Medicaid, or the dramatic increase in Medicaid claims for school-based costs. The proposed change will result in a loss of necessary revenue without means for replacement. The rule change is unsound policy in light of current law and court precedent. And the proposed rule change fails the standard that all government policies should be judged by -- what improvement will be gained by the citizens of the nation and states.

Submitter : Ms. Jeanette Steck

Date: 10/11/2007

Organization : Ms. Jeanette Steck

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As a Republican, you are making it very difficult to support the party views in this upcoming elections. Why can we find the money for the war but not for our children in health insurance, let alone not support special needs children that can't take care of themselves. This money provides services for not only the children, but lends support financial and emotional support for family members providing care during extremely taxing situations. If certain states are abusing transportation funding loopholes, go after that not the children.

Submitter : Mrs. Maria Elena Lozoya
Organization : Chino Valley USD
Category : Speech-Language Therapist

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a Speech Pathologist who works for a the Chino Valley Unified School District. I am opposed to the proposed regulation from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services CMS-2287-P. Federal reimbursements for the cost 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 and mental health services for our students.

Submitter : Ms. Barbara Raboy
Organization : Daly City Youth Health Center
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Regarding the Medicaid Program and the proposed Elimination of Reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration Expenditures and Costs Related to Transportation of School-Age Children between Home and School: I am deeply concerned that this program may be terminated. Schools are very capable in their efforts to perform administrative duties to help enroll eligible, un-insured youth in health insurance programs. This task directly impacts a student's ability to succeed in his/her academic performance.

Submitter : Ms. Roberta Brownstein

Date: 10/11/2007

Organization : ESD113

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The medicaid match program in schools, is a crucial funding source for connecting students and parents to the medical services these students so desperately need, and for which they are eligible. In many school districts, medicaid match is an important funding source for providing direct nursing and medical services to students who would otherwise not be able to access these services. Not a month goes by that I am not actively helping parents acquire Medicaid for their students, helping them get transportation to medical services for their students, or helping them find providers that accept Medicaid. The medicaid match program is a tremendously important financial source of funding for accessing and receiving health care for these students. Multiple studies show that with improved health care, students are better able to succeed in school, and success in school is a strong predictor for successful careers. (Positive Youth Development Requires Comprehensive Health Promotion Programs Author(s): Brian R. Flay, DPhil, FSBM, FSCRA, FAAHB1)(Predictors of Academic Achievement and Retention among College Freshmen: A Longitudinal Study.

by M. Scott DeBerard , Glen I. Spielmans , Deana L. Julka)

To cut medicaid match funding is short sighted, because students who are healthy and do well in school will grow up to be contributing members of society, who are then able to pay taxes. If these students and their families are denied medical support while they are in school, they may be doomed to a lifetime of decreased productivity, because their medical issues interfered with academic success.

Getting medicaid reimbursement for finding transportation to medical services is a crucial piece for the rural districts our ESD serves, because many of these parents do not have the means to transport their children to the services, and don't know how to access transportation services. The schools provide a vital link to medical services acquisition.

Submitter : Ms. Jennifer Ondrejka

Date: 10/11/2007

Organization : Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities

Category : Consumer Group

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities believes that the elimination of reimbursement for transportation to and from school is short sighted. A small percentage of Medicaid eligible children have disabilities of such a severe nature that they attend school only to receive medical services. These children may receive multiple Medicaid services on the same day at school. It is actually more cost-effective to reimburse the costs of specialized transportation to and from school than to pay for transportation to multiple sites.

The Council urges CMS to reconsider issuing the proposed rule and instead continue with current policy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ondrejka, Executive Director, at 266-1166 or ondrejm@dhs.state.wi.us.

Submitter : Mrs. Laura Crews
Organization : Chino Valley USD
Category : Academic

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

See Attachment.

CMS-2287-P-303-Attach-1.TXT

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 USD, 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.

Mrs. Laura Crews
SDC Teacher 4-6
Chino Valley USD, Chino, CA.
909-947-9749 X-6751

Submitter : Mr. John Markatos
Organization : Laytonville Unified School District
Category : Local Government

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes to the Medicare Administrative Activities (MAA) program. The services generated by these funds help many children and families in our rural and remote community. Absent the funds, the services would likely be eliminated, having a direct, negative impact on the students of our school district.

Submitter : Iris Fanning
Organization : Albuquerque Public Schools
Category : Other Health Care Professional

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

It is essential that you keep funding in tact to preserve beneficial programs for young people. When you cut administrative funding you cut funding for all programs. We have a family counseling program in our district that serves K-12 in half the schools in our district. If you cut funding, then approximately 30% of our budget will disappear and 1/3 fewer families & students will receive services. Right now we know that family counseling improves academic success, attendance and attitudes toward school achievement. Please reconsider and keep the funding in tact. Thank You!

Submitter : Mr. Marty Ricconi
Organization : L.E.A.S.E.
Category : Health Care Provider/Association

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The 27 school districts that make up my special education joint agreement in Illinois stand to lose over \$380,000.00 in Medicaid funding for services to medically fragile students with disabilities for next year alone if this rule is allowed to stand. Please withdraw your request to eliminate school funding for medically fragile students with disabilities. Support medical services to children.

Submitter : Mrs. Jenny Mott
Organization : Chino Valley Unified School District
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/11/2007

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.

I appreciate your continued support of the MAA/LEA program and urge you to send in your comments to Center of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

Thank you,

Jenny Mott RN BSN
School Nurse
Chino Valley Unified School District

Submitter : Mrs. Judith Brooks

Date: 10/11/2007

Organization : School

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I will like to say that nurses are a very important part of our school system and we need them. They provide a great service and nurishment to our students not only taking care of them when they are hurt but also checking on their well bieng. Please don't cut the funds for these individuals, as a teacher I feel that they play an important role at our school and they are indespensible.
Thank you.

Submitter : Mrs. Jan Clevenger
Organization : Santa Barbara County Education Office
Category : Local Government

Date: 10/11/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The school based MAA reimbursement program is a critical funding source for several programs that I oversee in the County Education Office. Two critical programs that need the funding from MAA reimbursements are the nine Juvenile Court and Community Schools and our Child Development operated preschools. The funds are used to supplement the instructional programs with teaching materials, supplies and other resources that are not covered in restricted program funding. The overwhelming majority of participants (students and families) in both of these programs are low income, socially disadvantaged who certainly meet the criteria of underserved.

These families rely on our schools to provide the extras that they can't provide for their children. With MAA dollars our programs provide not only the instructional support but also provide the additional resources that keep kids in school. Even with our JCCS alterative education program we feel obligated to provide traditional services to meet the needs of our students.

Eliminating the MAA reimbursement program will take away a steady stream of flexible funding that schools and districts rely on to provide resources that have been cut from standard state and federal funding models. Other categorical programs that have restricted funding can't provide the flexibility that is continuously being pulled from districts.

Submitter : Dr. Randy M. Schelble
Organization : Salt Lake City School District
Category : Local Government

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am Director of Exceptional Children Services, which includes special education programs, for Salt Lake City School District. I am writing you to strongly urge that you not eliminate reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration Expenditures.

CMS funds significantly impact the access to educational services for students with disabilities in our district. They do not supplant but supplement what we provide. Because of CMS funds, our district is able to supplement related services which include a school nurse to oversee the implementation of health care plans, an additional occupational therapist, an additional speech language pathologist, an additional half-time school psychologist who provides counseling to identified students, and an adapted physical education teacher who provides adapted PE to students with significant physical and motor needs. Each of these providers are held accountable for the services they provide and we conduct internal audits of their services on an ongoing basis. At no time have the funds received through Medicaid reimbursements been used for purposes other than supporting students with identified needs.

I cannot stress enough the critical nature that the elimination of reimbursement or CMS cuts would have to school programs. The programs and services we provide to eligible children are essential for this population of students. Our commitment to their educational needs is remains unwavering, and I hope that Congress will recognize the investment that school districts like Salt Lake City School District are making to ensure that students with disabilities are able to receive appropriate services in order to access their entitlement to education.

Respectfully,

Dr. Randy Schelble

Submitter : Ms. Bonnie Kitchens
Organization : Henderson County Schools
Category : Health Care Industry

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This helps the public schools provide services that are cost prohibitive. B

Submitter : Mrs. Deb O'Connor
Organization : beverly public schools
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Meicaid reimbursements help me as an Administrator of Special Education provide therapies to over 300 students. Without these funds, the system will be forced to decide between teachers and therapists.

Submitter : Mrs. Amanda Custer
Organization : Rockwood Area School District
Category : Nurse

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As the school nurse in a rural district who is also our Medical ACCESS coordinator, I am very concerned about the proposal of eliminating school reimbursement for administrative duties and special transportation services for our children with special needs. The school is required to provide these services (and we are happy to), but where do the budget cuts end! Each year, any type of additional services that our students receive cost the district more and more money and it seems that we have more children that have IEP's and who qualify for these services which we must provide. I spend many hours each week working on referring students to apply for ACCESS cards, assisting where I can help them out, then having them tested by the appropriate individuals and referring them for appropriate services. Then having an IEP meeting for these students, having a medical practitioner authorize the need for these services, then getting parent signature for approval to bill MA, then entering all of this billing info each month on the computer for reimbursement. This is just one tiny part of my school nurse job, but it takes hours to do because of the administrative duties involved. As with anything there is a lot of extra time and paperwork involved with this process. I have MANY other duties here at the school being the school nurse (state mandates with vision, hearing, ht/wt BMI screenings, physicals, dentals first aid, sports physicals, wellness committee - more and more each year added to these state requirements also). The administrative time that it takes to do the Medical ACCESS requirements as well as to provide special transportation for our students with special needs still deserves to be reimbursed to the school district so that we can continue to provide the necessary services for our students and do it properly.

Thank you for taking your time to read my comments. I hope that you consider the needs of our school districts and our children and to not further cut reimbursement from Medical ACCESS funds.

Thank you,
Amanda Custer
Rockwood School Nurse/
MA Coordinator

Submitter : Mrs. Dawn Conway
Organization : Livingston County Special Services
Category : Academic

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

see attachment

CMS-2287-P-314-Attach-1.DOC

CMS-

Because the referenced comment number does not pertain to the subject matter for CMS- , it is not included in the electronic public comments for this regulatory document.

Submitter : Mr. Charlie Johnson

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Republic High School

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a high school special education teacher. I believe eliminating reimbursement under Medicaid for school administration expenditures and costs to transportation of school age children between home and school will adversely affect all children. I think Congress should override the President's veto on this one.

Submitter : Mr. J. Matthew White
Organization : Republic R-III School
Category : Academic

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Dear Medicaid,

Our school district serves a large population of at risk students. These students are the victims of economic, social, and emotional deprivation. Our school district utilizes the funds we receive from the SDAC program to provide services specifically targeted towards these students. Because we are an underresourced school, these programs will be eliminated if the SDAC program were to cease. Our district uses these Medicaid funds to provide mental health services to these students and families. Many of these families are in crisis and have no resource outside of the public school system. We are their only hope. I urge CMS to void the current proposal and maintain the SDAC program. The very existence of some of our students depends on it.

Thank you.

Submitter : Angie Mays
Organization : Republic Schools
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I think that the schools losing more money would be sad! We need to focus on our children and their safety. The schools are supposed to be held accountable for everything, but the government keeps taking our resources away.

Submitter : Mrs. Wendy Wimgard-Gay
Organization : York School District One
Category : Speech-Language Therapist

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please continue to fund Medicaid in the areas of speech, language and hearing services in the schools so that students have the support they need to be successful in general education curriculum to become productive US citizens. Parents and students need the monetary support of the federal government to provide for the driving costs of the health care industry so that parents with no or little health insurance are given the same equitable services in speech therapy in the public schools as they would receive in private practice.

Submitter : Dr. Sheri Piercy
Organization : Tri-County Special Education Association
Category : Academic

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

See attachment

CMS-2287-P-319-Attach-1.DOC

CMS-

Because the referenced comment number does not pertain to the subject matter for CMS- , it is not included in the electronic public comments for this regulatory document.

Submitter : Dr. William Fink
Organization : Volusia County Schools
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Volusia County Schools wishes to formally file comment opposing Proposed Rule Change Medicaid Programs; Elimination of Reimbursement under Medicaid for School-Based Administration Expenditures and Certain Transportation Costs (CMS-2287-P). The rule change prohibits federal reimbursement for administrative and transportation costs associated with special education services for Medicaid eligible children. For our school district, this would mean the loss of funding which would help disabled children meet their health and learning needs and offset the shortfall with IDEA.

Submitter : Dr. Tracy Hines
Organization : Dr. Tracy Hines
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I oppose the proposed rule establishing a Secretarial finding that general school-based administrative activities are not necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan. Further, I am opposed to the rule establishing a finding that transportation from home to school and back for school-age children is neither necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan, nor within the scope of the optional medical transportation benefit. I want the federal government to continue Federal financial participation (FFP) under the Medicaid program to be available for school-based administrative and certain transportation costs. Schools face an incredible number of unfunded or partially funded mandates. IDEA requires schools to provide related health care services to students who have individualized education plans. The dollars available through FFP under Medicaid have provided partial support, removal of these dollars will increase the burden schools face to implement IDEA. In Florida, local dollars are not available to make up the difference. Other programs for health care in the schools not mandated by IDEA will be limited or removed. Please consider that the population at risk here is one that is most in need of vital support.

Submitter : J Gardner
Organization : Early Intervention Services
Category : Other Practitioner

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The elimination of reimbursement for these services will cause children to quality of services. Schools will have to figure ways to provide services but cut corners. Children will get watered down services. Not to mention services and reimbursement for these services keep getting cut in every way the government and medicaid can find. We pay taxes for medicaid so why can't they provide services. In Ga they keep reporting how much money they are "saving" meanwhile they are making profits instead of providing services. Drs and service providers are going out of business and leaving and not there to provide services. It's just one more cut back and one more way you can figure to get out of helping kids and pass the responsibility to other people. Medicaid should be there to help families with children with Special Needs not abandon them.

Submitter : Mrs. Becky Conner
Organization : Mrs. Becky Conner
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Reimbursement for School Administration Expenditures and Transportation costs should remain in place. School systems are having to pay a large part of costs for special needs services. Local systems can not continue to meet the requirements without additional funds.

Submitter : Mr. Steven Gamble
Organization : Madison County Board of Education
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

School Based Administrative Claiming and Direct Services Claiming is integral in reimbursements in our school system that allows us to employ staff to work with these students. If they are not funded, then a reduction in staff will occur.

Submitter : Mrs. Patricia Dee Mithelavage

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Republic R-III School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

At some point and time we need to make a decision to serve the betterment of our children. Do we, or do we not want to help and assist our children to the best of our ability? It serves no purpose to mandate requirements for school districts and then cut the funding. As educators we see this happen over and over. Children are falling behind in reading and math. School districts need to supplement their curriculum with additional support for these children. We will provide districts with additional revenue. In response, districts start Title programs, add remedial staff, incorporate AmeriCorp, only to have funding cut after implementation. Now Medicaid is following suit. As an educator I would appreciate assistance given to aid our students and their families, not cut it now or in the future. As a nation, state, and community, if no child is going to be left behind, we ALL need to walk the talk. Respectfully yours, Patrica Dee Mithelavage:
Principal, Republic Middle School, Republic, MO 65738

Submitter : Ms. Cheryl Reed
Organization : Republic RIII High School
Category : Social Worker

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Our students greatly benefit from Medicaid Mental Health funding. I provide individual and family therapy for students in this school who would not otherwise have access to those services. I work with students on various issues, i.e. rape, abuse, runaway, suicidal ideations, chronic discipline/attendance issues, anger management, substance abuse/dependence, self-esteem, abandonment issues, grief/loss issues, etc. These services provide support and aide in increasing accountability, decreasing dangerous behaviors, improving school performance, improving communication and anger management skills, addressing self-esteem and self-harm behaviors, developing relapse prevention plans, and improving family dynamics. Removing access to these services would tremendously impact the lives of our students and families.

I have seen great improvement in the students I have seen over the past year. I believe without access to these services in a neutral, trusted environment, many of those students may not have accomplished the success. This offers a convenient service for those youth whose parents are not able to provide transport or financially provide mental health services for their children. This cut will have such a negative impact on these children's lives and their ability to succeed. Please stop these cuts!!!

Submitter : Mrs. Patricia Mays

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Mrs. Patricia Mays

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

It appears that once again the poorest and sickest have the least voice. I have been involved with school nursing for over 20 years and have seen first hand what a difference school attendance can make for children with handicaps, either physical or mental. If you can't get on a bus and sit in a seat without help, that doesn't mean that your parents will transport you to school. We'll go back to the 'good old days' when such children were hidden the the attic or cellar until death. I too thought that educating the mentally handicapped was a waste of tax dollars until I saw special education teachers work miracles with them. They can learn and become productive citizens who pay tax dollars. Most parents of handicapped children are so stressed in life that they need help in coordinating care for their children. It does not come from the local Department of Human Services. I have never seen an employee of DHHR come to an IEP meeting, nor in school to assist the child with getting an education. The only DHHR employees that visit in the schools are CPS workers, usually because teachers and nurses have seen a child in a desperate situation and asked for help from them. I don't know how the rest of the country works, but here in our school system, children succeed in life because of the special help they get from the school staff, not from an employee of DHHR. It is ludicrous to cut school funding for children and push 'No Child Left Behind'. The funding Medicaid supplies to schools is what PREVENTS children from getting left behind. If there is a problem with accountability for funds, audit individual school systems. Don't punish those who are abiding by the law.

Submitter : Dr. Barbara Rebhuhn
Organization : Hudson School District
Category : Individual

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

To best serve the unique needs of students with disabilities, such as those students who are in wheelchairs, have no or very limited communication skills even with technology who need special ized transportaiton with aides. This is likely to be cost prohibitive without support through Medicaid. PLEASE retain this financial support for those who unable to advocate for themselves.

Submitter : Mrs. Ana Oseguera

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Project APPLE

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally personally involved with a non-profit organization for 12 years that works to serve children, through the schools, who are in need of physical and mental health services. During that time I have seen what a difference it makes when children enter the classroom, healthy and ready to learn, Our organization alone, working through just one school district, assisted 209 children last year with enrollment into the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families program. Schools are a logical place for families to access health services. Families are familiar and comfortable with the people and the school. The unique role played by schools as a health service portal is irreplaceable. I urge you to continue your support for the school-based MAA program.

Submitter : Ms. Vickie Myers

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Project APPLE

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally personally involved with a non-profit organization for 12 years that works to serve children, through the schools, who are in need of physical and mental health services. During that time I have seen what a difference it makes when children enter the classroom, healthy and ready to learn. Our organization alone, working through just one school district, assisted 209 children last year with enrollment into the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families program. Schools are a logical place for families to access health services. Families are familiar and comfortable with the people and the school. The unique role played by schools as a health service portal is irreplaceable. I urge you to continue you support for the school-based MAA program.

Submitter : Mrs. Michele Weingart

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Manhasset Special Education Parent Teacher Ass.

Category : Congressional

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As a Mother to a special needs child suffering from AUTISM, I urge you to withdraw the proposed regulations regarding habilitative services for people with developmental disabilities. These regulations would eliminate critical services that enable people with intellectual disabilities and related to improve or maintain basic life skills. The regulations impose discriminatory and arbitrary criteria to exclude people with developmental disabilities from receiving these essential services.

Why does our duly elected Congressional leaders easily pass a bill authorizing billions of dollars for a war machine when our own American children are left to suffer needlessly? This is an outrage and a shame upon our elected Congressional leaders!

Do the right thing. SUPPORT OUR OWN CHILDREN.

Submitter : Ms. Debbi Cleary

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Community H.S. District 155

Category : Health Care Professional or Association

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The medicaid program is a vital means to ensure that these students are able to receive the necessary supports and services needed in order to ensure their access to their education. Please do not cut this vital reimbursement under Medicaid.

Submitter : Mrs. Shannon Coats

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : Monson-Sultana Joint Elementary School

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a school nurse in a rural school who works with students, the majority of which, are well below poverty level. MAA Reimbursement has allowed many needed programs and services to be funded. Health supportive services and education allows students at every age group to not only stay healthy, but learn how to take care of themselves. This goes beyond school age. Through educating students early and reinforcing a healthy lifestyle, as well as providing needed medical care as it arises, students learn how to take care of themselves. They learn that they are worth taking care of. In turn they have better success in school, because they feel good both mentally and physically. Many students I work with do not have strong positive support systems at home. The school is their haven and their role model. Please do not eliminate a good thing, because of current lack of priorities for funding. Where there is a will, a desire, and a belief in something, there is always a way. For our district even a little helps. We do not receive a huge amount from MAA, however the little that we do receive reaches a lot of students. Thank you for your time. Shannon Coats - School Nurse

Submitter : Mrs. Judy Benke

Date: 10/12/2007

Organization : North Saint Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale School Distri

Category : Nurse

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Children with health conditions that require treatment during their school day are entitled to receive appropriate care and an appropriate education. Children need to be in a state of optimum health to benefit from education. School districts are/have been inadequately funded both federally and statewide for years. It is wrong to expect school districts to continue to fund the multiple unfunded mandates and taking away this support is criminal. School health services do our very best to keep children healthy and ready to learn. Taking away this financial aid will further reduce our ability to do that.

Submitter : Mrs. Deborah Bailey
Organization : Modesto City Schools
Category : Other Government

Date: 10/12/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

See attachement

CMS-2287-P-335-Attach-1.PDF

RESOLUTION NO. 07/08 - 20

Opposition to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Proposed Rule CMS 2287-P

Whereas, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans on publishing a rule (CMS 2287) which would stop school districts from receiving federal reimbursement for an estimated \$3.6 billion over five years in Medicaid services provided to children with disabilities, and

Whereas, this action would reduce the availability of and access to needed health and developmental services for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and other low-income children with special needs, for whom school is their primary site for healthcare delivery, and

Whereas, schools rely on these reimbursements for a variety of purposes such as transporting children to school for their medical appointments, identifying students who need health related screenings and evaluations, connecting children and their families with other needed health services in their community, and coordinating and monitoring those health services with which they have been connected, and

Whereas, the loss of these resources could mean that schools have to curtail their health-related referral services, and/or scale back health-related outreach activities, and

Whereas, many of these identified health services are mandated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law, therefore this action would substantially increase the burden on already financially-strapped local school districts and, as a result, could impact students in regular education programs as well through cuts to electives, after school activities, arts and music programs, and/or reductions in teachers and support positions.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Modesto City Schools Board of Education hereby proclaims its opposition to the publication of this rule as such action is necessary in order to protect schools' ability to provide children with the health services that they deserve.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted at regular meeting of the Board of Education held on the 8th day of October, 2007 by Governing Board Member Mrs. Johnson, who made the motion, which motion was duly seconded by Mr. Lopez, was upon roll call, carried into Resolution passed by the following vote:

- AYES: Chin, Cline, Johnson, Lopez, Marks, Rollicheck, Collins
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINED: None
- ABSENT: None

ATTEST:



Arturo M. Flores, Secretary
Board of Education, Modesto City Schools

Date October 8, 2007

Submitter : Mrs. Navidad Arnett
Organization : Mrs. Navidad Arnett
Category : Individual

Date: 10/14/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Re: CMS-2287-P

The purpose of this comment is to express concern for the proposed rule changes (CMS-2287-P) that, if adopted, would eliminate schools reimbursements for certain services provided to Medicaid-eligible students, with the most immediate effect being the elimination of transportation services to students with IEP's. As the parent of a child with special needs, I would like to comment that elimination of transportation to and from school would create a hardship for not only my own family, but many thousands of other families as well.

In reading a copy of the proposed regulations, it is clear that one prime motivating factor in making this proposal is to address the problem of excessive expenses to the CMS. The discussion of the regulations clearly implicates school districts' "... improper billing ... for administrative costs and transportation services."

It is unconscionable that the response to alleged fraudulent reporting/claims by the school districts is to eliminate the service altogether. Numerous alternative solutions exist, the most obvious of which is to install safeguards and auditing procedures that would eliminate the possibility of such fraudulent activity taking place in the future, thereby solving the problem while keeping the services intact.

Elimination of these services amounts to an injustice against disabled students throughout the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Navidad Arnett

Submitter : Mr. Joseph Vermeire
Organization : Rock Island Regional Office of Education
Category : Individual

Date: 10/14/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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This Medicaid Program is extremely important for the special children in our Special Education cooperative. These reimbursement dollars allow professional specialists to evaluate, diagnose and prescribe the correct treatment and course of actions for children that are in dire need of help. The Federal Government has a duty to provide local education agencies with the resources to help care for these desparate children. These extraordinary costs would not only not be available, but the impact on the regular ed program would be degrading.

Please act to KEEP the reimbursement of Medicaid Transportation in CMS-2287-P

Submitter : Dr. gary tyler

Date: 10/15/2007

Organization : Mecca Tech

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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2287P will force local taxpayers to bare the cost of medical assistance to special needs, medicaid eligible children. Several school districts have embraced the assistance to speical needs children and as a result have attracted families to move into their district. Now, the taxpayers of that district will carry a disproportionate share of the national medical care for those children. The funds were promised by IDEA up to 40%. That promise was never kept so the districts accessed Medicaid funds to cover the costs of the less fortunat families and children. Stop your obvious effort to injure these children and the school districts in which they reside.

Submitter : Dr. Tony Roehrick
Organization : Bellevue Union School District
Category : Academic

Date: 10/15/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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Your proposal to eliminate reimbursement for expenditures incurred by public school agencies for Medicaid related services places yet another unfunded mandate squarely on the backs of students. Reimbursements under this program have a long history of being legally permissible. Changing the rules is arbitrary and unfair. Please record this response as a firm non-supportive comment to eliminate reimbursement under Medicaid for School Administration Expenditures and Costs Related to Transportation of School-Age Children between Home and School.

Submitter : Mr. Richard Parsley
Organization : Merced County Office of Education
Category : Academic
Issue Areas/Comments

Date: 10/15/2007

GENERAL

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The MAA funding is greatly needed for us to continue providing services that so many of our at risk youth need. With the funding we will have to close many of these needed programs that we now can offer