

Submitter :

Date: 09/17/2007

Organization :

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a school psychologist for a small district and without assistance of this kind we limit what we can do with special programs and alternatives for our students. We need to continue the reimbursement so that more can be done for all students. As it is we cut what is available for lack of funding and without this funding we will have to limit our students even more. Also keep in mind that the funding reimbursement provided to district like ours helps with provided the general population with much needed services like nursing, counselors etc. We have limited resources already.

Submitter : Mr. Thomas Austin

Date: 09/17/2007

Organization : Oneonta City School District

Category : Local Government

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Our school district will lose vital revenue needed to pay for special transportation services and provide the appropriate educational program for all of our students.

Please do not eliminate this Medicaid reimbursement category.

Submitter : Monique Stokes
Organization : Laquey R-V School District
Category : Academic
Issue Areas/Comments

Date: 09/17/2007

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am the Special Education Process Coordinator for the Laquey R-V School District in Laquey, MO. We are a rural school district with very limited funds. The staff at Laquey School District has a reputation of meeting the unique, individual needs of all of its students with few resources. Our administration and school board is very supportive and does everything possible to keep the needs of our students first. In the last several years more and more of our state and federal funds have been cut, and it was very distressing to me when I found out that that our Medicaid School District Administrative Claiming Program might be eliminated as well. The money that has been generated by that program over the past three years has helped our district buy many needed items for the students of our district that would have been otherwise difficult for us to purchase. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide services for all students, especially those with special needs as there are more and more requirements and less funds. Please reconsider eliminating this program and the resources that it provides. Thank you in advance for any help that you can provide.

Submitter : Dr.
Organization : Dr.
Category : Nurse

Date: 09/17/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Our school district is very small and in a financially poor section of southern MO. We have a very low tax base and stretch every cent to get the maximum benefit for the most students. We only receive about \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year from the SCAC program, but that small amount is enough to help offset the cost of an aide for a student with medical needs.

Submitter :

Date: 09/17/2007

Organization :

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I believe the program should not be eliminated. There are a lot of schools that depend on these funds to purchase certain items yearly. The person(s) who proposed the elimination of this program are doing a great disservice to the students and schools.

Submitter : Ms. Amy Cusumano
Organization : Raytown School District
Category : Academic

Date: 09/18/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

To Whom It May Concern,

Our school district has grave concerns about the limination of the SDAC program. We use the money to provide mental health services for our students. Without the staff and resources provided by the SDAC program, many of our students would not achieve success in schools.

Please do not eliminate the program.

Submitter : Ann DeFeo
Organization : Raytown School District
Category : Individual

Date: 09/18/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Please do not eliminate the reimbursement under medic-aid for school districts. In the Raytown School District, we use the money to provide a number of valuable services in the area of mental health for our students who other wise would have no access to needed help.

Submitter : Mrs.
Organization : Mrs.
Category : Nurse
Issue Areas/Comments

Date: 09/18/2007

GENERAL

GENERAL

First of all please support the Protecting Children's Health in Schools Act of 2007 bills. Also doing away with the MSBS programs would make it more difficult for schools to provide the health services necessary to low income families in New Mexico please reconsider and keep these very vital programs.

Submitter : Ms. Marquitta Infante

Date: 09/18/2007

Organization : Bellflower Unified S.D.

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally involved with a non-profit organization for 15 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 very much 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. Barbara Henderson
Organization : Raytown C-2 School District
Category : Academic

Date: 09/19/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I think this action would be yet another blow to public education. Schools use this reimbursement money to provide services to students with mental health/health issues. This will tremendously hobble quality of services at the District levels, maybe to the extent of dissolving certain services altogether. Given the No Child Left Behind mandate, State legislators should be considering ways to assist school districts toward this end, instead of undermining their efforts through such budget cuts. In short: DO NOT change MEDICAID reimbursement policies.

Submitter : Ms. Sharon Pirozzi
Organization : Albuquerque Public Schools
Category : Nurse

Date: 09/19/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Any changes to the Medicaid Programs available to students would adversely effect their medical care. In most instances, the services provided by our school system are essential to the wellness of the students.Ours is a relatively poor community by national standards, families are not able to afford transportation and/ or other services and so, to diminish or cut off any services the school system provides is unacceptable and basically says that some people are expendable. That is simply not OK

Submitter : Mrs. Jana Harms

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization : Raytown School District

Category : Speech-Language Therapist

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Medicaid funding our schools receive pays for mental health services to our students as well as additional paraprofessionals to assist students with handicapping conditions to more fully access the educational programs within our schools. Please don't eliminate this funding to the schools.

Submitter : Mr. Bret Watson
Organization : Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Category : State Government

Date: 09/19/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

To whom it may concern:

The Medicaid Program has been instrumental in helping some of our students achieve their goal of obtaining their education, finding jobs, and contributing to the programs and services both federal and state by their contribution of taxes that they pay. The Department at De Anza Community College that coordinates the Medicaid program, assists people on welfare and helps to train and educate them in various professions so that over time, (usually 1 1/2 to 2 years) they are able to find solid professions and contribute to our society. These welfare-to-work students are no longer taking money out of the system, but are helping to fill the pot for others in need. If you decide to reduce or remove this funding source from the people who need it most, I will feel very concerned for our students and for people who are in need of health care. Please vote to keep the existing Medicaid Program.

Thank you,

Bret Watson

Submitter :

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization :

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I work with students on a daily basis regarding physical and mental health services offered through our elementary school. If these opportunities are taken away from our students there is a big chance their families will not go elsewhere to receive services and the students will be the ones that are suffering in the long run. The role played by school as a health service portal is irreplaceable. I highly encourage your to continue to support the school-based MAA program.

Submitter :

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization :

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally involved with a non-profit organization for 1 year that works to serve children, through schools who are in need of physical and mental health services. 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. Families are familiar and comfortable with the people and the school, which makes schools a logical place for families to access health care. 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. Kathleen Howard

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization : Soquel Union Elementary School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

More and more school districts are expected to take on medical support to students during the school day. Members of the public and the legislature are often surprised by the many medical and health related activities performed by school personnel. Schools deserve equal access to reimbursement with other agencies providing similar services.

Submitter : Mr. Leigh Shampain

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization : Summerville Elementary School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a Superintendent/Principal of a small rural school in Tuolumne, California. We have 387 students with a 40% free and reduced lunch count. Last year, the district received approximately \$12,000 in Medi-Caid Administrative Reimbursement (MAA) funds. In the past we have depended on those funds to hire a nurse to administer insulin to a student with diabetes. The funds are currently used to provide mental health counseling for students (K-8) and dental screening/daily care for K-5 grade students.

Submitter : Mr. greg englar

Date: 09/19/2007

Organization : sonoma county office of education

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

To implement CMS-2287-P is a foolish idea. To say it is not part of most state's Medicaid plan shows CMS ignorance about how most kids and families get lead to health services. I'm sure there's far greater fraudulent activity with private providers billing then what a few school districts have done. Perhaps if energy was put into helping states claim properly instead of finding fault, schools could be of even greater service in monitoring ruthless health providers.

If districts begin to eliminate health providers and other staff most likely to assist families with health issues, I'll be sure to point out political party was behind this brilliant move.

Submitter : Mrs. Janice Lau
Organization : El Centro Elementary School District
Category : Academic

Date: 09/20/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

It is with urgency that I request your reconsideration of the CMS 2287 regulation. With the ever-increasing complexity of student needs, particularly in the area of health and mental health, we are significantly challenged to provide adequate services to our students. We are an isolated community with limited resources, and often families have to travel more than 120 miles for specialized medical services. When I began in my position as Coordinator of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services approximately 12 years ago, we employed one full-time School Nurse for approximately 6,000 students. We have had to add three nurses and two health assistants over this period of time due to the extensive medical needs of our students. We support students daily with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and spina bifida; as well as life threatening diseases such as Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, heart disease, cancer, etc. Many of these students do not qualify for Special Education services, and therefore, are not eligible for any additional funding to support them. We have been able to supplement our nursing and school psychological supports through the additional revenue that we have generated through Medi-Cal, and we still are sorely lacking in these areas. In the schools, we are expected to medically support our students in a safe and medically sound manner. Without sufficient funding and the resulting reduction in staff, I believe we will be putting these students at risk.

We are not sufficiently funded for our health and mental health services under the current federal and state funding sources, and would be significantly impacted in our services to students if the Medicaid reimbursement for administrative and transportation services provided by schools is eliminated. The CMS 2287 regulation is a bad idea for children and families, and I strongly urge you to oppose it.

Sincerely,

Janice Lau
Coordinator, Special Education/Pupil Personnel Services
El Centro Elementary School District

Submitter : Mr. Daniel Dishno

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Estimates for the number of uninsured children in Santa Clara County are 71,000. Of that number, approximately 2/3 qualify for either the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. That means there are between 14,000 and 18,000 children in Santa Clara County who are uninsured and eligible for the Healthy Kids program.

So what does this mean? To enroll 14,000 children in Healthy Kids, \$14 million per year is needed. To be successful and provide healthcare services to eligible children, much

more has to be done. As of February 2007, outreach, education and marketing efforts have increased the number of enrollment Medi-Cal and Healthy Families applications to 124,266. That means more than 120,000 children will have access to medical, dental and vision care covered by one of three insurance programs. The Medi-Cal Administrative Activities funding helps make much of this possible. Without this funding, many children in Santa Clara County would not be receiving health insurance and health care.

The Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program provides a mechanism to reach parents and children through contact with their schools. Though outreach to eligible families may not meet the definition of necessary, it is proper to educate families where they are at. The employees of the State or local Medicaid agencies are neither equipped or available in enough numbers to make any difference in reaching the eligible populations. The Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program makes it possible to connect eligible families with available Medi-Cal services. Therefore, this program may not be necessary, but it is effective and beneficial to both the community and the Medi-Cal program.

Thank you

Submitter : Mrs. Veronica Reynolds
Organization : Mrs. Veronica Reynolds
Category : Individual

Date: 09/20/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally involved with a non-profit organization for 10 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 for the school-based MAA program.

CMS-2287-P-72

Submitter : Mrs. Patti Olson

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Kings Canyon Unified School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I oppose the proposal to no longer support reimbursement for school based administration and transportation through the MediCaid program.

Submitter : Mr. Bill Rogers
Organization : Lockwood R-1 Schools
Category : Academic

Date: 09/20/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

Eliminating the reimbursement under Medicaid for our district would be harmful as it would certainly make us re-think our funding of a school/community wellness center that we have undertaken with these funds. We are so directly held responsible for student fitness and wellness, that this space provides an opportunity to address the wellness of our students during ad after hours, our staff and the community. This has been a wonderful program for all concerned as we try to help with health issues here in Lockwood. With elimination of funds, this and improvements to this program will no longer be possible. Please reconsider the elimination of this reimbursement as I am sure we are not he only health and wellness program that has benefitted from these funds. Sincerely,
Bill Rogers, Superintendent of Schools

CMS-2287-P-74

Submitter : Ms. Darlene Merle

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Torrance Unified School District

Category : Speech-Language Therapist

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

This just seems like another way to take funds away from schools. Our school district uses this money for the students not for salary increase. We are already underfunded. Most schools are underfunded and it is a shame.

Submitter : Mr. Sam Chimento

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Palermo Union School District

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been following the news regarding plans by HHS to eliminate Medicaid reimbursements. I will not pretend to know of the political forces that are in play to cause HHS to consider eliminating these reimbursements. I can, however, tell you if eliminated the significant negative effect this will have on the families and children we serve.

Palermo is a small rural school district. 80% to 85% of our families qualify for free or reduced meals. Health care is of vital importance to the students we serve and has a direct affect on student learning. We depend on reimbursements to staff positions that identify health needs, make referrals, and transport students and families to appointments because families do not transportation. These positions and related services will discontinue without reimbursement. Yes, certainly remaining staff will do their best to be observant and assist families as they can but in a situation like ours where the need is so great, many needs will be overlooked and services will not be provided.

As I said, I m not a politician, but I do see and know the needs of my students. The elimination of Medicaid reimbursements will deal a devastating blow to our ability to meet those needs.

Thank you for reading and giving consideration to my concerns.

Submitter : Mrs. Sherryl Avitabile
Organization : Redlands Unified School District
Category : Academic

Date: 09/20/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

The Redlands Unified School District opposes CMS -2287-P!!

Public schools play an integral part in connecting school age students and their families with Medi-Cal and Medicaid programs. Hundreds of students come through our doors on a daily basis that require medical services but have no medical insurance. Without the resources made available to school districts through the Medicaid Administrative Activities program, outreach programs for needy parents and their students will cease to exist! School employees are often the first, and sometimes only, contact students and parents have to assist them in accessing Medicaid and other needed medical services. Four of our schools house Healthy Start offices, providing parents a one-stop shop for access to education, health, and social services within our communities. All schools are intimately involved with our local Family Resource Centers, providing valuable social and economic benefits to our society. Public schools are not just institutions for education anymore!!

Our schools provide, on a daily basis, outreach services for Medicaid and other health related services, translation services for non-English speaking families who require assistance in completing applications or accessing services, and assist in obtaining transportation for special needs students to get the health care that they require.

Medicaid administrative reimbursements allow schools to be more interactive with community resources and help parents and guardians get proper information related to Medicaid services and programs. Who better to provide Medicaid administrative activities to parents than schools, certainly not state Medicaid agencies or their staff! School based administrative claiming only reimburses school staff for that portion of their time spent on Medicaid related activities. What would it cost to provide full-time state Medicaid employees at schools in order to provide students and their families the same level of access to Medicaid programs?

In 2006 the State of California, paid less the 0.3% of the total state Medicaid expenditures for school-based Medicaid administrative activities. There are millions of children enrolled in Medicaid as a direct result of school district referrals and coordination and millions more will be brought into Medicaid through the efforts of school personnel. The miniscule percentage of the Medicaid budget claimed by schools for administrative reimbursements seems justified given the critical health service gaps they cover.

CMS s proposed rule 2287 must be rejected!!

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion and let you know that the Redlands Unified School District opposes CMS-2287-P.

Submitter :

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Carpinteria Unified School District

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

California stands to lose more than \$130 million annually in federal reimbursements for administrative responsibilities and certain home-to-school transportation services to students with disabilities. Please do the right thing for schools!

Submitter : Mrs. Jeanette Gosden

Date: 09/20/2007

Organization : Caring Connections 501(c)(3)

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am a volunteer Treasurer for the named organization. I have been involved for over 15 years. The reason for my dedication is the outcome/impact that the organization has had on students and their families living within the Bellflower Unified School District in Bellflower, California.

We started our organization from a five year operating grant from the state. We no longer have that funding to ensure the well being of our students by utilizing Case Managers at the various schools within the District. We now rely heavily on the MAA billings to fund the Case Managers, which now number 12 part-time individuals (one for each school).

These Case Managers have a reference manual that they use to inform parents of MediCal/caid and Free Clinic agencies that they can qualify for. They are also aware of all the organizations serving the City of Bellflower that offer free or low cost medical, dental, mental health and vision services. Without these resources the children and the families of the District would go without and the utilization of emergency rooms would skyrocket.

It is for these reasons that I am pleading with you to withdraw proposed ruling CMS-2287-P from consideration. The impact of not paying MAA billings would cause a huge negative impact on the utilization of MediCal/caid to those who qualify. I think CMS would have to rethink their position if this pending legislation would be implemented, since their costs would increase by a huge amount in comparison to the MAA billings costs.

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

Sincerely, Jeanette Gosden

Submitter : Mr. Joel Kurtzman

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Forks of Salmon Elementary School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

As the Principal/Superintendent/Teacher of a small school district I, and our students and staff have extremely benefited financially and socially from the Medicaid program over the last year. We have helped low income families find local medical aide, we have assisted students to get the care they need to progress in the classroom. We are no longer deficit spending. The reimbursement has allowed us to catch up with our budget and get out of the red. Even as a small school we've done enough to help our budget and help our families on our own. Our students, parents, staff and myself strongly encourage you to continue the Medicaid program for it does impact our little school. We want to continue to be successful and this program allows us that especially in a time now where school funding is becoming less available and programs are discontinuing. This program however allows us to continue. We need this and we are willing to work hard for it and its benefits for we do realize what those are. As a small school we have few families but every one of those families need assistance in some way and the resources of the Medicaid program allows us to provide that. Our school budget needs help just a much as those families do, Ive never seen a program that does both at once. We need another year if not more for our school and the communities families to stay a float. Thank you for your time.

Submitter : Ms. Jane Elson
Organization : Lindsay Healthy Start
Category : Local Government

Date: 09/21/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. It is impossible to overemphasize how important these services are to our families. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our Family Resource Center to literally exist. Thank you for your consideration. Jane C. Elson

Submitter : Mrs. Karen Poppen
Organization : Keyes Union School District
Category : Academic

Date: 09/21/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

These services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive, treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue.

Please impose a one-year moratorium on any CMS cuts to reimbursement for school-based health programs.

Thank you.
Karen Poppen, Superintendent
Keyes Union School District

Submitter : Mrs. Vanessa Lopez
Organization : Lindsay Healthy Start
Category : State Government

Date: 09/21/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am very opposed to the rules proposed to eliminate federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school based family resource center, a Healthy Start. We provide many services including mental health counseling, dental assessments and immunizations. It is impossible to overemphasize how important these services are to our families. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our Family Resource Center to literally exist. Thank you for your consideration. Vanessa Lopez

Submitter : Mr. Robert Forbes

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Migrant Education

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am strongly opposed to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with approximately 4,000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. I cannot overstate how important these services are to our families. Furthermore, I want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. I respectfully request that you not support this proposed change. Robert Forbes, Director of Migrant Education Region 24

Submitter : Debbie Warner

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Lindsay Unified

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. It is impossible to overemphasize how important these services are to our families. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our Family Resource Center to literally exist. These services have made a great difference in the lives of many of our students and families. If we are to continue to expect our students to achieve then we need these funds. Thank you for your consideration.

Submitter :

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization :

Category : Local Government

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. Thank you for your consideration.

Submitter : Mrs. Norma Erwin

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : STARS After School Program

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

We care for 800 children ages K to 8 in our after school programs daily. Our less structured programs allow us to offer a greater focus on fitness, nutrition, proper hygiene as well as time for parent consultations. We often find a need to refer parents to the local Healthy Start facility to link up to needed medical services. Many times, parents who would not otherwise seek out medical help are willing to go to school based Healthy Start facility because it is less threatening. It is for this reason that I am against a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies because it reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue.

Submitter : Mr. Russell Ernst

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Lunsay Unified School District

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. It is impossible to overemphasize how important these services are to our families. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our Family Resource Center to literally exist. Thank you for your consideration. Russell Ernst Principal

Submitter : Mrs. Jessica Hernandez

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Mrs. Jessica Hernandez

Category : Individual

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I am voicing strong opposition to the rules proposed to eliminate the federal reimbursement under the Medicaid program for school-based administrative and special education transportation costs. We are a small school district in rural California with just over 3000 students who rely heavily on the services provided through this funding. These services are provided through a school based family resource center - Healthy Start. Such services include mental health counseling, dental assessments for migrant children, immunizations, support for victims of domestic violence, programs to promote father involvement, case management for families with children with disabilities as well as case management for at risk families in general. It is impossible to overemphasize how important these services are to our families. I also want to emphasize that these services are necessary to the provision of services required under the state plan, and that a rule change eliminating reimbursement only when the affected services are provided through education agencies reflects a differential, and more restrictive treatment of schools in comparison to other settings where the same Medicaid-related activities are provided and for which funding would continue. These funds support services and relationships that are crucial to the well-being of our children and families. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for our Family Resource Center to literally exist. Thank you for your consideration. Jessica Hernandez

Submitter : Mrs. Carla Calderon
Organization : Mrs. Carla Calderon
Category : Individual

Date: 09/21/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

I have been personally involved with a non-profit organization for 3 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 : Mr. Ronald Lopez

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Sweetwater Union High School District

Category : Academic

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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I am the Director of Special Education with Sweetwater Union High School District, the largest secondary district in the nation. Our department serves students with all levels of disabilities, including those who have significant medical and/or psychiatric needs. We host specialized programs for unique disabilities and must transport students as necessary. Our district has been able to offset a significant amount of our support services, including transportation, with Medicaid reimbursement monies. This funding has allowed us to establish programs which would not otherwise be available locally. Further, the flexibility for to us bus students to alternate campuses provided the opportunity for specialization and better services to students. I can attest that the reimbursable hours are recorded by our staff with the highest of integrity. I urge that the Medicaid reimbursement to schools be continued.

Submitter : Mr. Casey Cridelich

Date: 09/21/2007

Organization : Colton Joint Unified School District

Category : State Government

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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Eliminating MAA (transportation & administration costs) \$ will mean that CJUSD will stand to lose about \$500K in funds (per our new MAA billing agency). We use these funds to fund our direct health aide/nursing services to eligible students/families. We do NOT put these reimbursements back into transportation & administration - we put directly to these students/families. Our District is 78% Hispanic with most of the students/families Severely Economically Disadvantaged with a very low incidence of any health coverage other than through the local hospital emergency rooms. The reimbursements are also used to screen and refer these students/families for dental, vision and asthma care. We have strong breakfast & lunch programs (funded separately) and along with this program reimbursement; we are able to reduce barriers to learning. If they are hungry and/or ailing they cannot pay attention to learn. Our District's Academic Performance Index is 656. We are expected to have the students increase this score on standardized tests to 800 by 2013-14 for a growth of 25 points per year. As it stands now, the students are averaging about 10 points a year growth.

CMS-2287-P-92

Submitter : Mr. Steven Dionne
Organization : Mr. Steven Dionne
Category : Individual

Date: 09/22/2007

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

GENERAL

See Attachment

CMS-2287-P-92-Attach-1.DOC