

House Republicans Letter on State Fiscal Relief/FMAP Provisions in the “Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003”

Circulated by Reps. King and LaHood and sent to the Conferees

May 2003

State Medicaid programs serve as an important safety net for Americans in need by ensuring access to critical health and long term care services. Currently the Medicaid program provides coverage to 47 million Americans. Twenty million, or one in four U.S. children, are covered by this program, as well as 8.6 million adults, 4.1 million elderly, and 7 million blind and disabled individuals.

But reduced state revenues are placing severe strains on many state budgets and could limit Medicaid at a time when additional coverage and spending is most needed. States are currently facing the most severe budget crisis since World War II and nearly every state has proposed or enacted cuts to its Medicaid program.

We must work to maintain a strong health insurance safety net for vulnerable populations. As you know, the Senate has included \$20 billion in state fiscal relief as part of their economic stimulus measure. We write to express our support for this provision and urge you to maintain its integrity in the final version of the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003.

Signed by Reps. King, Reynolds, Sweeney, McHugh, Duncan, Boehlert, Radonovich, Bono, LoBiondo, Robin Hayes, Max Burns, Sue Kelly, Weller, English, Lewis (Jerry), Leach, Wamp, Weldon, Burr, Renzi, Gingrey, Boozman, LaHood, Platts, Murphy, Quinn, Castle, Houghton, Gallegly, Ramsted, Janklow, Biggert, and Isakson.