



# News Release

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## **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS CALLS ON THE SENATE TO KEEP MEDICAID STRONG**

Delay Medicaid-damaging cuts now, says AAP President Renée R. Jenkins

**Washington, D.C.**—The U.S. Senate needs to protect children and stop Administration-proposed regulations that would cut billions of dollars out of critically-needed Medicaid programs, American Academy of Pediatrics President Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP said Monday.

“We need to send a strong message that children must come first,” said Jenkins, urging senators to support H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, which could come to the Senate floor as early as today. “Cutting Medicaid by tens of billions of dollars during uncertain economic times is the wrong thing to do. Some 30 million children rely on Medicaid to make sure they get the health care they need to get well and stay well. If this legislation fails to pass—or is weakened—the resulting cuts will harm our most vulnerable citizens at a time when they need more help, not less.”

The administration regulations would cut as much as \$50 billion in federal funding from such essential Medicaid services as:

- School involvement in Medicaid, including critical enrollment and health-care services, such as providing medications during school hours;
- Rehabilitative services, curtailing the kind of aid Medicaid recipients can receive;
- Case management services, which are especially crucial for the most vulnerable children, those in foster care or with special needs.

Jenkins urged the U.S. Senate to swiftly approve H.R. 5613 by a veto-proof majority and repel any efforts to weaken it. “The Senate should follow the lead of the U.S. House of Representatives,” she said. “Its 349-62 vote last week, enough votes to overturn President Bush’s threatened veto, proves there is broad bipartisan support for delaying these harmful Medicaid cuts.”

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*The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.*