

February 23, 2009

The Honorable John Lynch
Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor Lynch:

The State of New Hampshire and states all across the nation are facing an economic crisis of truly unprecedented proportions. The impact of this economic meltdown is being felt across all industries and sectors of our economy. And it is affecting people, particularly those low income and disabled individuals who rely on government programs and services, as well as those who have recently lost their jobs and with it their health insurance coverage.

We appreciate the challenge that you and your administration face in achieving a balanced State's budget. We are encouraged, though, that New Hampshire will be receiving a significant increase in Federal spending as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("stimulus bill"), which President Obama recently signed into law.

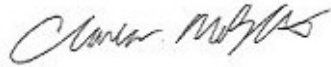
One of the major prongs of the stimulus bill is to provide relief to states through an increase in the Federal matching percentage (FMAP) in the Medicaid program through the end of 2010. Under current estimates, New Hampshire stands to receive approximately \$250 million in additional Medicaid FMAP funding through 2010!

We are writing to urge you to invest those new Federal Medicaid dollars in the Medicaid program ... to restore cuts in services to beneficiaries, as well as payments to providers. This enhanced Medicaid spending is intended to offset the strains that the current economic situation has placed on state budgets because more and more citizens are now eligible for the Medicaid program, and it should not be used for other purposes ... any new Federal Medicaid spending should be dedicated solely for the Medicaid program.

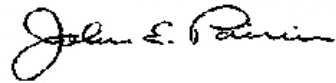
Sincerely,



Steve Ahnen
President and CEO
New Hampshire Hospital Association



Charles Blitzer, MD
President
New Hampshire Medical Society



John Poirier
President and CEO
New Hampshire Health Care Association



Susan Young
Executive Director
Granite State Home Health Association



Mark Harris
President
New Hampshire Optometric Association



Robert L. Nash
President
Independent Agents and Brokers of New Hampshire