



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

I am writing to express New York State's opposition to a congressionally-mandated block grant of federal Medicaid spending. Such a drastic overhaul of the Medicaid program is neither necessary nor desirable.

Just last week, the New York State Legislature approved budget recommendations that will substantially redesign the State's Medicaid program. As a result, Medicaid spending will be reduced below last year's level and future growth will be controlled. At the same time, program quality will be enhanced and there will be no new restrictions on eligibility. I believe our experience clearly demonstrates that the States already have the flexibility we need to assure that Medicaid growth can be controlled without limiting access to necessary health care.

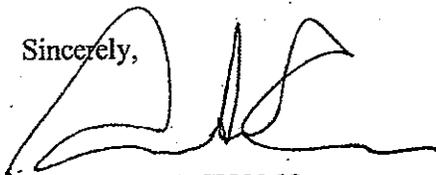
By contrast, a Medicaid block grant imposed unilaterally by Congress on all states could lead to inadequate funding for all or some states, in part, because it fails to recognize the unique characteristics of the programs of individual states. As we know from our own experience, the costs associated with enrollment increases, aging populations, economic downturns, natural disasters, new diseases or epidemics are not uniform across states.

I extend my appreciation to our federal partners for the flexibility they have demonstrated as New York redesigns its Medicaid program and welcome a productive conversation with



Congress about how the federal government can maintain its critical role in funding the health care safety net while continuing to facilitate state-level innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Cuomo', written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW M. CUOMO