



May 1, 2008

Dear California Representative:

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Sacramento
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95814

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The California State Association of Counties asks that you consider cosponsoring the *Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008* (H.R. 5698). The bill would re-establish the responsibility of the federal government to assist in financing the medical expenses of incarcerated individuals who have not yet been adjudicated. California's counties are responsible for covering the medical expenses of individuals in their jails or other detention facilities, even those who await trial. As soon as an individual enters the county jail, he/she loses federal health benefits, including Medicaid, Medicare and Supplemental Security Income.

Because federal coverage is severed at the time of incarceration, many individuals also have difficulty in reinstating coverage upon re-entering society. Disrupting the continuity of care is not only detrimental to the individual, it becomes more costly to provide the necessary care when he/she delays treatment due to being uninsured.

Counties in many states serve as the health safety net for those individuals who have no public or private insurance. The elected county officials understand that responsibility and meet those needs. Federal coverage for those who are insured, however, should not be arbitrarily cut off as soon as a person enters a detention facility.

H.R. 5698 assists California's counties by ensuring that federal health benefits continue while individuals await adjudication. We urge your support of the legislation. To cosponsor the bill, please contact David Goldenberg in Representative Hastings' office at david.goldenberg@mail.house.gov or 225-1313 or Josh Martin in Representative Burgess' office at josh.martin@mail.house.gov or 225-7772.

If you have further questions about our position, please contact Tom Joseph, CSAC Washington Representative at tj@wafed.com or 202-898-1444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul McIntosh".

Paul McIntosh
Executive Director