



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2011

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW AD CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT MEDICAID

Washington D.C. –The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems recently launched an advertising campaign to educate Congress and the Administration about the implications of cutting Medicaid to the nearly 60 million Americans currently covered by the program –mostly children, women and the disabled. Medicaid is under fire from all sides during the deficit reduction debate, and NAPH is standing up for patients and Medicaid beneficiaries across the country.

The ads depict the importance of preventing additional federal funding cuts to ensure that patients continue to receive the vital health care services that they depend on. They also remind policymakers that *“Medicaid saves lives, and Medicaid works for the economy.”* While it is clear that that our Nation needs to reduce its debt and deficit spending—harming children, seniors, disabled and poor persons is neither a smart nor compassionate way to balance the budget. Protecting Medicaid is crucial in caring for the health of our Nation, and bolstering our fragile economy. Safety net hospitals drive nearly 800,000 jobs across the country, and help grow their respective state economies by more \$120 billion, according to the most recent data. Simply put, substantial cuts to Medicaid put those jobs at risk.

The multi-week ad campaign will feature print and online spots as well as video. To view the ads, visit www.protectmedicaid.org.

“For the millions of Americans who have fallen on hard times, Medicaid may be one of the few safety nets available,” said Dr. Bruce Siegel, President and CEO, National Association of Public Hospital and Health Systems. “Millions of our neighbors are in better health, able to lead productive lives and have some financial security because of Medicaid. Now is not the time to cut this important funding and leave millions of our fellow citizens vulnerable to increased disability and disease.”

Medicaid is a crucial resource for working families. More than 30 million children depend on Medicaid, and changes to the program will especially harm kids. As the leading providers of care to Medicaid patients, safety net health systems know firsthand what happens when Medicaid benefits, eligibility and provider rates are cut – patients suffer. It is critical that any proposals to reduce federal spending do so by building upon the successes and efficiencies of the Medicaid program and not by arbitrarily cutting funding, thereby simply shifting costs onto states, patients, and providers.

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

NAPH represents the nation’s largest metropolitan hospitals and health systems that fulfill a safety net mission of providing high volumes of care to low income individuals. These facilities provide high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country’s default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community-wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America’s doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. Since its inception in 1980, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, with the executive branch, and in many state capitols. NAPH advocates on behalf of its members on such issues as Medicaid, Medicare, and access to health care services for vulnerable populations. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.naph.org/>.