

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 365

Approved August 15, 2005

WHEREAS, The Medicaid Program has been an essential part of the American health care system for forty years, and

WHEREAS, 53,000,000 Americans and 185,000 Rhode Islanders depend on Medicaid for vital health care coverage, and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders who need Medicaid coverage include pregnant women, the elderly, children and parents and people with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, Families and individuals are faced with ever higher and higher health care costs, and

WHEREAS, Federal Medicaid revenues also help support our hospitals, nursing homes, community and mental health centers and children's school health services, and

WHEREAS, Any reduction in Medicaid-funded services would result in increased costs to the entire health care system, including the health insurance costs to Rhode Island's employers and workers, and

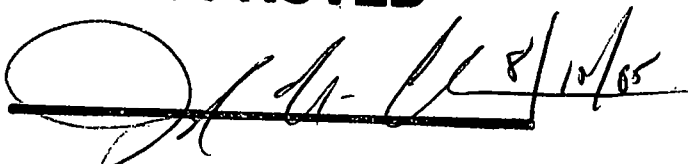
WHEREAS, Co-pays, reducing eligibility, and restricting necessary services would shift costs to the State and its municipalities, deprive vulnerable people of basic health care and increase the number of uninsured people, and

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island and the City of Providence do not have the tax base necessary for covering these costs.

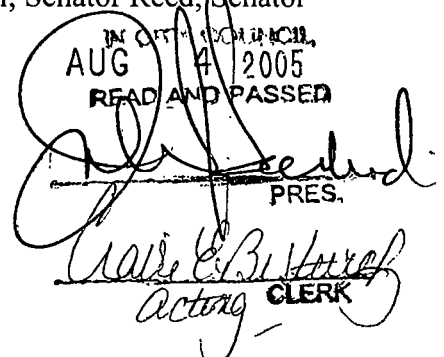
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Providence urges the President, the Governor and the United States Congress to maintain current levels of Medicaid eligibility, funding and scope of services and preserve this vital state and federal partnership to protect the health, safety and welfare of all the state's citizens, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to President Bush, Governor Carcieri, Senator Reed, Senator Chaffee, Representative Langevin and Representative Kennedy.

APPROVED



MAYOR

IN CITY COUNCIL,
AUG 14 2005
READ AND PASSED

PRES.
Acting CLERK

and Luna

Rhode Island for Health Care

Legal & Luna

260 West Exchange Street
Suite 206
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 274-2003
(401) 274-0226 (fax)

www.ImAHealthCareVoter.org/RI

Medicaid Resolution

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Whereas, 53,000,000 Americans and 185,000 Rhode Islanders depend on Medicaid for vital health care coverage, and

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Whereas, federal Medicaid revenues also help support our hospitals, nursing homes, community and mental health centers and children's school health services, and

Whereas any reduction in Medicaid-funded services would result in increased costs to the entire health care system, including the health insurance costs to Rhode Island's employers and workers, and

Whereas, co-pays, reducing eligibility, and restricting necessary services would shift costs to the State and its municipalities, deprive vulnerable people of basic health care and increase the number of uninsured people, and

Whereas, the State of Rhode Island and the city of Providence do not have the tax base necessary for covering these costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Providence urges the President, the Governor and the United States Congress to maintain current levels of Medicaid eligibility, funding and scope of services and preserve this vital state and federal partnership to protect the health, safety and welfare of all the state's citizens.

The Providence Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to President Bush, Governor Carcieri, Senator Reed, Senator Chafee, Representative Langevin and Representative Kennedy.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

LINCOLN D. CHAFEE
RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3904

September 27, 2005

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(401) 845-0700

INTERNET ADDRESS:
<http://chafee.senate.gov>

Ms. Claire E. Bestwick
Acting City Clerk
The City of Providence
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903-1787

Dear Ms. Bestwick:

Thank you for writing to share your concerns about proposed Medicaid reforms. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you may be aware, the federal Medicaid Commission charged with recommending short-and long-term reforms to the program released to Congress its proposals on September 1, 2005. The recommendations include restricting asset transfers to qualify for long term care under Medicaid, permitting states to pay pharmaceutical companies less for prescription drugs, and expanding the number and amount of co-payments that beneficiaries pay for services. Changes or restrictions to targeted case management as proposed by the Bush Administration were not included in the recommendations.

Because of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, the budget reconciliation process during which Medicaid cuts would be considered before the full Senate has been postponed until October 26, 2005. You may be interested to know that the Senate Committee on Finance, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, is in discussions over apportioning the \$10 billion in mandated savings between Medicare and Medicaid. This approach would mean fewer cuts to the Medicaid program and its beneficiaries.

I share your concerns about proposals to reduce Medicaid funding and alter the basic structure of the program. Thus, I was pleased to join Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) as a cosponsor of an amendment to the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution to eliminate the proposed cuts to Medicaid. The Senate approved the amendment by a vote of 52 to 48, but unfortunately the cuts were restored during House-Senate negotiations to reconcile the two versions of the budget resolution.

I am well aware that the proposed Medicaid cuts would jeopardize the state's ability to provide basic services to our most vulnerable citizens. Please be assured I will continue to work with my colleagues to maintain the most funding feasible for our safety net programs.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Chafee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping tail on the "Chafee" part.

Lincoln D. Chafee

LDC/lb

UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3904

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FILED

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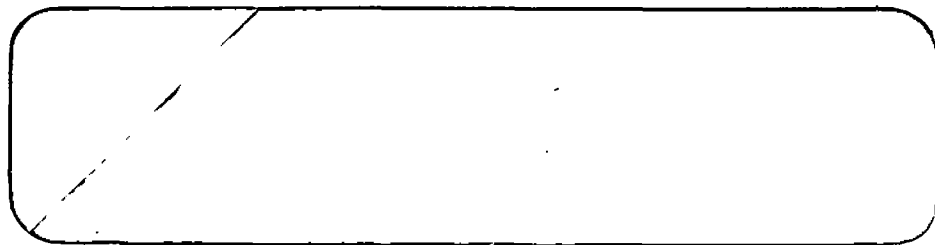
DE. CLERK
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

P. L.

Chafee

U.S.S.

PRSRT STD



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