



INDEPENDENT *Link*

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Medicaid Reform– TAKE ACTION NOW!

THE TIME IS NOW! The Senate is voting on the budget bill today – a budget that includes cuts to Medicaid which will hurt community pharmacy – and the House is beginning debate on the issue.

Starting **RIGHT NOW** and through the weekend until Tuesday, we must make as many phone calls to the local, in-state Congressional offices of key Members of Congress as we possibly can.

We must send a message to our legislators that current Medicaid budget cuts are going to severely harm community pharmacists' ability to serve our Medicaid patients. Your legislators can be located for contact by visiting the TPA website, **www.tnpharm.org**, and entering your zip code in the black and yellow "Write Your Legislators" box beneath the menu on the left.

Please use these **"TALKING POINTS"** (provided by APhA) when communicating with your legislators:

- The new reimbursement formula will significantly underpay community pharmacies for the prescription drugs and pharmacist services that we provide to Medicaid recipients, and will discourage dispensing of generic medications - a source of significant savings to the Medicaid program.
- I am disappointed that community pharmacies have been targeted for 60% of the Medicaid savings even though Medicaid payments retained by pharmacies only represent 2% of all Medicaid spending.
- Pharmacies may not be able to continue to serve Medicaid patients under this proposal. Pharmacy is willing to work with Congress to find better alternatives for savings that will not result in pharmacies limiting or eliminating access for Medicaid beneficiaries.

MESSAGES

- As a constituent, voter and local pharmacist I am deeply concerned about the changes being made to Medicaid.
- It is extremely important that proposed Medicaid budget cuts are not passed by the House of Representatives because it will potentially hurt my Medicaid patients by not allowing them to get their medicines.
- I am urging the Congressman/woman to vote NO/against the budget reconciliation bill because of the Medicaid cuts.

TPA has e-mailed members three times about this issue in the past week. Please locate these messages and review the information provided:

Date	Subject
10.28.05	CALL TO ACTION: Congress to Act on Medicaid Reform
10.31.05	Contact Your Members of Congress NOW about Medicaid Reform!
11.2.05	Action Alert: Senate Proposes Medicaid Cuts

The material in these e-mail messages is also now available to members and nonmembers on the home page of the TPA website: **www.tnpharm.org**. For information updated daily, visit the Coalition for Meaningful Medicaid Reform – <http://meaningfulmedicaidreform.org/blog/>. The Coalition has also created an ad to display in your store. You may download it from the TPA website at www.tnpharm.org/Medicaid_Ad.pdf.

First You've Heard of It?? TPA regularly sends members e-mail messages on this and other topics. If you are a member and not receiving TPA e-mail regularly, please contact us with your current e-mail address. If you are not a TPA member, please consider joining! **Join or renew today, and your membership dues will carry you through 2006.** Visit www.tnpharm.org to join online, or contact us at the phone number or e-mail address below. Thank you!

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