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| The Honorable [[Insert Senator Name](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)]  [Insert Address]  Washington, D.C. 20510 | The Honorable [[Insert Senator Name](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)]  [Insert Address]  Washington, D.C. 20510 |

Dear [Senators],

On behalf of [insert organization], we urge you to **protect Medicaid funding and oppose any budget reconciliation proposals that threaten access to palliative and supportive care for children with serious illness.** We are concerned that the House-passed budget resolution (H.Con.Res.14) requires the House Energy and Commerce Committee to produce at least $880 billion in savings. As your committees consider policies to achieve required savings, we urge you to protect Medicaid funding. **Cuts to Medicaid** would **jeopardize essential care for babies and children living with serious illness,** leaving families without access to life-sustaining medical support.

As palliative care clinicians and patient advocates, we witness firsthand how Medicaid provides a **lifeline** to children with conditions such as pediatric cancers, genetic disorders, and complex chronic illnesses. **Medicaid covers nearly half of all children and youth with special health care needs,** including those who rely on home- and community-based services (HCBS), medical equipment, and hospital-based palliative care.[[1]](#endnote-1),[[2]](#endnote-2),[[3]](#endnote-3) Without Medicaid, these children would face **delayed or denied care, increased hospitalizations, and the risk of institutionalization—at much higher costs to the healthcare system.**

Pediatric palliative care programs help reduce hospitalizations and improve care coordination, allowing families to care for their children **at home rather than in hospitals or long-term care facilities.**[[4]](#endnote-4) By keeping families intact and reducing preventable emergency department visits, Medicaid-funded palliative care actually **lowers overall healthcare expenditures** while ensuring the best possible quality of life for medically complex children.

[Space to customize your message; possible comment areas:

* Practice/program-specific details highlighting the importance of Medicaid to your patient population (e.g., “in my practice, 85% of kids on Medicaid”)
* Impact on family caregivers
* State-specific details regarding Medicaid reach and benefits
* Any other details to make your case]

We **strongly urge** you to protect Medicaid funding and **oppose any budget proposals that threaten access to palliative and supportive care for children with serious illnesses.** These cuts would be **devastating for the most vulnerable children and their families.** We appreciate your leadership and ask for your continued commitment to safeguarding Medicaid and ensuring that all children have access to the care they need to survive and thrive.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Org]

[Email]

1. National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. *NHPCO Pediatric Facts and Figures 2023 Edition*; 2023. Accessed March 11, 2025. https://www.nhpco.org/wp-content/uploads/NHPCO\_Pediatric\_Facts\_Figures\_2023.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Lindley LC, Lyon ME. A Profile of Children with Complex Chronic Conditions at End of Life among Medicaid Beneficiaries: Implications for Health Care Reform. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2013;16(11):1388-1393. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2013.0099 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Williams E, Musumeci M. Children with Special Health Care Needs: Coverage, Affordability, and HCBS Access. KFF. Published October 4, 2021. https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/children-with-special-health-care-needs-coverage-affordability-and-hcbs-access/ [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Gans D, Hadler MW, Chen X, et al. Cost Analysis and Policy Implications of a Pediatric Palliative Care Program. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2016;52(3):329-335. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2016.02.020 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)