



A collective vision and voice dedicated to preventing child abuse and the victimization of children.

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Dear Member of the PA Congressional delegation:

We are deeply distressed that Congress has failed to enact a temporary extension of the enhanced federal Medicaid match rate (FMAP).

Our distress is heightened by indications from the Rendell Administration and lawmakers that without the nearly \$850 million in extended enhanced FMAP funds alarming reductions would be required in public and private services and staffing dedicated to the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse, domestic and sexual violence services, and other services fundamental to strengthening families and keeping children safe at home.

We are calling on you to assure that Congress immediately finalizes action on a temporary extension of FMAP.

We fully appreciate that the Great Recession undermined the financial well-being of the Commonwealth and of families all across the state. In fact we have been on the front lines of this economic crisis.

We have been the advocates, professionals and agencies that even within our own budget constraints and reduced staffing have been asked to pick up the pieces. We've been there when economic strain and high unemployment have fractured a family, when a child has been physically and emotionally injured from abuse, a mom is trying to be a capable parent but can't connect to or afford critical drug and alcohol or mental health services, and we have provided the respite or shelter that have provided a lifeline to women and children fleeing abuse.

In April, Governor Rendell illustrated cuts that would require consideration without the FMAP extension – cuts that included: a twenty-five percent reduction in child welfare services, fifty percent reduction in domestic and sexual violence services as well as elimination of drug and alcohol and homeless services.

Any cuts, but particularly those of this magnitude, would come on top of a pattern of reduced or level funding that has not kept pace either with increased costs or dramatic increased demands for services. It also would arrive at a time when we can identify existing complications in our efforts to protect Pennsylvania's children (i.e. the state's child abuse hotline is operating with so few staff that somewhere between nine and thirteen percent of all calls to the hotline are being "abandoned," a \$1.8 million cut to Nurse Family Partnership in the current budget, a spike in domestic violence homicides, etc).

We are confident that even in these stunning times of fiscal insecurity for the Commonwealth and its families you will act quickly to finalize action on a temporary extension of FMAP. We look forward to a continued partnership with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A Child's Place at Mercy
Mary Carrasco, MD., Director

A Way Out
Freda Fultz, Executive Director

A Voice For Me, Child Advocacy Center
Jennifer Lytton

A Woman's Place
Donna J. Byrne, Executive Director

Alice Paul House

Lou Ann Williams, Executive Director

Bucks County Housing Group

Alison M. Poole, Director of Social Services

Citizens Against Physical, Sexual & Emotional Abuse

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CareLink Community Support Services

Eileen M. Joseph, President & CEO

Caring People Alliance

Arlene F. Bell, Esq., President & CEO

Central PA Food Bank

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Centre County Women's Resource Center

Anne K. Ard, Executive Director

Child Watch of Pittsburgh

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Clinton County Women's Center

Cynthia Love,

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Community Legal Services

Katherine Gomez, Family Advocacy Unit Director

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Grace Coleman, Executive Director

Domestic Violence Intervention (Lebanon County)

Lynn Snead, Executive Director

Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County

Donna "Bonnie" Glover, Executive Director

Domestic Violence Service Center (Luzerne & Carbon Counties)

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Family and Community Service of Delaware County

Alan Edelstein, Executive Director

Family Design Resources

Brenda Lawrence, Executive Director

Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley

Michael Zimmerman, Executive Director

Family Service of Chester County

Burroughs Mack, Executive Director

Family Support Policy Board

Ruth Kolb, Director

Greater Washington County Food Bank

Lisa Nucetelli

HAVIN (Helping All Victims in Need)

Jo Ellen Bowman, MSW, LSW, Executive Director

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania

Elizabeth G. Hersh, Executive Director

Huntingdon House

Kathy J. Whalen, Executive Director

Institute for the Study of Civic Values

Ed Schwartz, Director

Juvenile Law Center

Robert Schwartz, Executive Director

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Director

Maternity Care Coalition

Joanne Fischer, Executive Director

National Association of Social Workers –PA Chapter

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North Boroughs OB/GYN Association

Katie Herzog

Pathways PA

Carol Goertzel, President & CEO

PA Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers and MDTs

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Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Peg J. Dierkers, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Community Providers Association

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Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services

Bernadette M. Bianchi, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Public Advocacy

Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates

Dennis Hockensmith, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Head Start Association

Blair Hyatt, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Social Services Union, SEIU Local 668

Kathy Jellison, President

People's Emergency Center

Gloria Guard, President

Philadelphia Children's Alliance

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Pressley Ridge

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The Abuse Network, Inc.

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United Way of Westmoreland County

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Victims' Intervention Program

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Washington County Children & Youth Services

Lori Harbert

Washington Women's Shelter Inc. in Greene

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Women Against Abuse

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Women's Center of Montgomery County

Maria Macaluso, Executive Director

Women in Need

Barbara Channing, Executive Director

Women In Transition, Inc

Roberta Hacker, Executive Director

Women's Law Project

Carol Tracy, Executive Director

Women's Resource Center

Peg Ruddy, Director

YWCA / Wise Options

Deborah E. Shivetts, Executive Director

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