

**Reverse Proposed Medicaid Cuts:  
Keep Medicaid Income Eligibility for Pregnant Women at 250% of FPL &  
Keep the Medicaid Family Planning Program**

February 26, 2015

To: Health Subcommittees of the Senate Budget and Taxation & House Appropriations  
Committees

Dear Chairmen Madaleno and Zucker:

We are a coalition of consumer advocates, health care providers and health advocates, community organizations, and concerned individuals who support Medicaid coverage of pregnant women and family planning. We ask for your help in working with the Maryland General Assembly, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and interested stakeholders to find alternatives that will forestall the following two reductions in the proposed 2016 budget: 1) Lowering of Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women from 250% to 185% of federal poverty level (FPL); and 2) Elimination of the Medicaid Family Planning Program.

We understand that the women covered by these programs could theoretically enroll in Qualified Health Plans through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. However, the reality is that many women will be left without coverage for critical services due to numerous barriers – in policy, affordability, and information technology. The result will be that pregnant women and women who need family planning services will not be able to access them. Maryland has made great strides in expanding coverage. **We cannot afford to slip backwards in providing for the health of Maryland women and infants. Please help us reverse the proposed 2016 cuts and seek long-term solutions to address the issues of Medicaid coverage for pregnant women and family planning services.**

Sincerely,  
Planned Parenthood of Maryland  
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform  
Advocates for Children & Youth  
American College of Nurse Midwives – Maryland Affiliate  
The Coordinating Center  
Inez N. Claggett  
HealthCare Access Maryland  
Institutes for Behavior Resources, Inc.

Karin G. Russ, MS, RN  
March of Dimes, Maryland National Capital Area Chapter  
Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
Maryland Association of Advance Practice Clinicians  
M. Christina Guidorizzi, Couple and Family Therapist  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Chapter - National Association of Social Workers  
Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition -Sponsored by the Greater Washington Society  
for Clinical Social Work  
Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health  
Maryland Dental Action Coalition  
Maryland Disability Law Center  
Maryland Environmental Health Network  
Maryland Nurses Association  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
Maryland United for Justice and Peace  
Maryland Working Families  
Pat McLaine, DrPH, MPH, RN  
Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association (serving DC, MD and VA)  
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers  
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
NARAL-Pro Choice Maryland  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - Maryland Chapter  
National Women's Health Network  
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland  
Older Women Embracing Life, Inc.  
Preventing Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness – Mid-Atlantic  
Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County  
Progressive Cheverly Executive and Health Committees  
Public Justice Center  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Eugene Simms  
Sisters Together and Reaching  
Claudia M. Smith, PhD, MPH, RN-BC  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
University of Maryland, Carey School of Law, Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic  
Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.