

## **Minnesota Officials Try to Retain Federal Medicaid Funds for MinnesotaCare**

Minnesota officials scramble to retain the state's federal share of Medicaid dollars after CMS indicated that the state could lose \$135 million in federal Medicaid funding.

Yesterday (Sept. 17), Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) met with officials from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the cutback, while the state legislators held a hearing to determine the effects of the proposed Medicaid cutbacks.

In addition, on September 10, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduced legislation (S.3457) to ensure that MinnesotaCare is not cut and Representative Keith Ellison (D. Minn) recently announced that he too plans to sponsor legislation.

This all stems from an August 11 letter from CMS to the Minnesota Department of Human Services that indicated that CMS would extend the state's Medicaid waiver **with the condition** that the state limits the participation of parents in the state's program for the uninsured and under-insured. This restriction placed on the state waiver would likely push out 18,000 Minnesotans from MinnesotaCare.

Minnesota's Department of Human Services has delayed implementing the condition of the waiver while the state officials continue to negotiate with CMS on funding.

Attached is the BNA article on the issue.

To access recent and past state health policy reports go to the State Health Policy section on the Chapter Leadership Network (CLN) website or click on:  
[http://www.acponline.org/cln/health\\_policy.htm](http://www.acponline.org/cln/health_policy.htm)

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