



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*®

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter King
United States House of Representatives
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Pallone and King:

The American College of Physicians (ACP), the nation's largest medical specialty organization representing 125,000 internal medicine physicians, residents and medical students, commends you for introducing legislation to lessen the impact of budget deficits on state Medicaid programs. H.R. 5268 would temporarily increase the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) to states (2.95 percent) and territories (5.9 percent).

During this time of economic downturn, ACP believes it is imperative to help preserve the safety net function of state and federally-funded health care programs. Without this temporary increase, many states might be forced to limit enrollment or cut physician reimbursement rates; thereby reducing access to health care for many vulnerable citizens.

The College believes the Medicaid program is integral to shrink the numbers of uninsured. In fact, we support expansion of Medicaid to allow more eligible individuals to enroll. We applaud your efforts to provide additional Medicaid funding as states face considerable budget shortfalls. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dale".

David Dale, MD, FACP
President