Action Needed NOW to Extend Enhanced Medicaid Match Rate

As a part of the federal stimulus plan last year, the federal Medicaid match rate, known as the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), was increased. Before the stimulus plan, the federal government paid about 60 cents of every dollar spent on Kansas Medicaid services. Because of the stimulus plan, the federal government has been paying about 70 cents of every Medicaid dollar in Kansas for the past year, saving the state of Kansas hundreds of millions of dollars and preventing even more devastating Medicaid program cuts.

Yesterday the FMAP extension passed the U.S. Senate. Next week the U.S. House of Representatives will vote. Please contact Representatives Moran, Jenkins, Moore and Tiahrt to ask them to support the extension of the current elevated Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that is being debated in the U.S. House and will be very important to Kansas at the end of this fiscal year.
To contact 3rd District Congressman Dennis Moore:
Email at http://www.moore.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=85§iontree=5,85, or write, fax or call him at:
Congressman Dennis Moore
1727 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2865
FAX: (202) 225-2807

To contact 4th District Congressman Todd Tiahrt:
Email at http://www.tiahrt.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=12, or write, fax or call him at:
Congressman Todd Tiahrt
2441 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202.225.6216
Fax: 202.225.3489

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Without an extension, the additional federal Medicaid money will run out December 31, 2010, and many states will be forced to make drastic cuts to the federal-state program. Kansas would lose approximately $130 million in the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2010.

Kansas Medicaid dental services already have been cut during this severe recession. Without the additional FMAP dollars, Medicaid funds will be in jeopardy again on January 1, 2011.

Please take action today to contact Representatives Moran, Jenkins, Moore and Tiahrt and ask them to reinstate the FMAP funding in HR 1586. Ask them to keep the higher match rate in place through June 30, 2011.
If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org

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