

Health Care for the Homeless Mobilizer

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council

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Medicaid Threatened in Congress

Senate Vote Provides Last Opportunity to Stop Cuts

The immediate assistance of *Mobilizer* readers and health care advocates is needed to stave off dangerous reductions to Medicaid that loom in Congress. The House and Senate Budget Committees each have passed budget resolutions containing at least \$15 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the source of health insurance for 53 million poor and disabled Americans. Each resolution will next be voted on by the full House and Senate in the coming days. *The proposed cuts will be fully realized unless Medicaid's defenders take action right away!*

Smith-Bingaman Amendment

The last remaining opportunity to stop these cuts is a planned amendment to be offered by Senators Smith (R-OR) and Bingaman (D-NM) that would eliminate Medicaid cuts from the Senate budget resolution. "There may well be places where we can save money in Medicaid," Smith said, "but I am opposed to blindly cutting the program when we have a real opportunity to improve it." The Senate's vote on the budget resolution (and therefore the amendment) could take place as early as Tuesday, March 15. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council therefore joins Families USA, the Coalition on Human Needs, the American Friends Service Committee and many others in urgently asking all health care advocates and concerned citizens to **call, fax and e-mail your Senators to emphasize the importance of their vote for the Smith-Bingaman amendment!**

ACTION: Families USA and the American Friends Service Committee are both providing toll-free access to the Capitol switchboard. Call **800-828-0498** or **800-247-2971**, and ask for your Senator's office. If you have trouble getting through, you may also call **202-224-3121**.

- **Tell your Senator** that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of America's poorest and most vulnerable citizens!
- **Tell your Senator** that 45 million Americans already lack health insurance, including 73% of HCH clients, and the budget resolutions cuts to Medicaid would only worsen the situation!
- **Tell your Senator** to vote "Yes" to the Smith-Bingaman amendment!

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