

## **Action Alert from National APSE 6/3/2010**

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### **Medicaid Cuts Still Possible – ACT NOW!**

It is vital that you ask your Senator(s) to continue to support the extension of FMAP funding!

### **BACKGROUND**

As a part of the Recovery Act, a 6 month extension to the Medicaid FMAP increase was enacted. However, this funding is set to expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 unless Congress passes the Tax Extenders Act. This Act would provide an additional 6 month extension, which is crucial given that many states are counting on this funding as they finalize their state budgets.

FMAP stands for the federal medical assistance percentage and is the federal government's share of Medicaid funding. Without this funding, states will have to make cuts into their Medicaid services which will have a direct negative impact on the lives of citizens with disabilities. Some of the services at risk include health care, supported employment, dental care and home and community based services.

The Senate is expected to debate the bill next week when it reaches the Senate floor and it is important that FMAP extension pass. While some Senators have voted to pass FMAP in the past, we cannot assume they will continue to support FMAP and therefore, we must ensure they understand the importance of this issue. 62 Senators have voted in favor of FMAP previously and APSE encourages you to contact your Senator(s) and tell them to pass FMAP extension. For those of you whose Senator(s) supported FMAP previously, tell them thank you and encourage them to continue to do so.

For more information and to see which Senators have voted in favor of FMAP in the past, please click [here!](#)

### **ACTION**

Please call your Senator(s) office THIS WEEK and encourage them to pass the FMAP extension. You can call the following toll-free number 888.340.6521 and be directed to your Senator(s) office after entering your zip code. You may use the following script to assist you in making your call.

### **SAMPLE SCRIPT**

*“Hello, may I please talk to the staff member in charge of health policy?*

*I wanted to take a moment to thank Senator \_\_\_\_\_ for his/her support of the FMAP extension.*

*An extension of the FMAP funding increase is very important because it assists states in*

*continuing to provide much-needed services through Medicaid.  
Citizens with disabilities rely on many Medicaid services and a cut would result in a negative impact on the lives of citizens with disabilities.*

*I ask that Senator \_\_\_\_\_ support an extension of FMAP funding. Thank you!”*

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Birmingham, Public Policy Associate at [Stephanie@apse.org](mailto:Stephanie@apse.org). On behalf of APSE, thank you in advance for all of your advocacy efforts!