

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE MEDICAID PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid is the nation's largest source of health care coverage for low-income Americans, covering approximately 44 million American citizens, of which women and children comprise the majority; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 30 percent of Medicaid-eligible women and children are still uninsured; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed changes to Medicaid could potentially limit the number of eligible enrollees, eliminate services such as the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) for children, and limit assistance to families with children with special health care needs who would not traditionally qualify for insurance under federal mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, health programs, such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), depend on Medicaid funds to provide necessary health care services for disproportionately affected, underinsured, and uninsured individuals who are otherwise ineligible; and

**WHEREAS**, many local public health agencies (LPHAs) will be among the first to experience the impact of any changes to the health insurance program as gatekeepers of Medicaid enrollment and the primary providers of services for those who qualify.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) encourages local health officials to remain aware of and contribute to the planning and discussion surrounding proposed changes to the Medicaid program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NACCHO advocates for Medicaid program policy that promotes and ensures access to medical and long-term care for low income families, children, pregnant women, and elderly and disabled adults in a manner that will increase positive health outcomes and improve the health status of these populations.

*Proposed by Community Health and Prevention Committee  
Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors September 9, 2003*

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration. A Profile of Medicaid: 2000 Chart book, Section 1. September, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Medicaid: Fiscal Challenges to Coverage, Washington D.C. May 2003.

<sup>4</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Fact Sheet: Medicaid's Role for Women, Washington D.C. November 2000.

<sup>7</sup> The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. The Medicaid Program at a Glance, Washington D.C. May 2003.

[http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=18131](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=18131) [Accessed 2003, June 9].