



FACT SHEET: Feds cut critical health services with backdoor bureaucratic move **March 2008**

The Bush Administration is continuing its effort to undercut Medicaid and health services by usurping legislative authority and using the federal rule-making process to cut programs and restrict access to health care.

What's the problem?

Over the past year, the Bush Administration has proposed or issued nine regulations that would cut critical health care services and cost Colorado as much as \$200 million in federal funding. At a time when state budgets are already stretched too thin, and given Colorado's funding restrictions, these funding cuts and shifts in costs are difficult, if not impossible for Colorado to absorb. These changes in federal regulations will have devastating consequences for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Who is impacted?

These federal regulations would harm some of the most vulnerable people in our state, and jeopardize their access to critical services. This includes children with developmental disabilities, foster children, kids who access health care at school, people transitioning back to the community from institutional care, and low-income uninsured people who received hospital care.

What are some examples of public services that would be cut or reduced?

School-based health services including transportation for children with special health needs, Colorado's indigent care program which serves 180,000 people, case management for foster children, special education services, federal funding for teaching hospitals, and assistance for Medicaid recipients transitioning from institutional care.

What's the timeline to stop the regulations?

Less than 90 days. A bipartisan congressional moratorium was passed last year to delay some these regulations, but it expires in May. One regulation that cuts services for foster children with developmental disabilities and for people transitioning from institutional care went into effect March 3rd. Others dealing with school-based health services will expire in June unless Congress acts.

What's the solution?

Congress must extend the moratoria. If not, Colorado will lose \$787 million over the next five years, and critical, life-sustaining services for hundreds of thousands of people will be in jeopardy.

What can you do to help?

Have your organization sign on to the attached letter below to the Colorado congressional delegation, making it clear to them how much this matters to Colorado and how devastating these regulations would be for its people.

For more information or if your organization is interested in signing on to the attached letter, please contact Adela Flores-Brennan at afbrennan@cclponline.org or 303-573-5669 ext. 313.

To schedule a media interview, please contact Scott Downes at sdownes@cclponline.org or 303-621-5595.