



Eastern Regional Conference

22 Cortlandt Street, Fl. 22
New York, NY 10007
T: (212) 482-2320
F: (212) 587-4188
www.csg-erc.org

Co-Chairs
MNA Guy Ouellette
Québec

MNA Guy Leclair
Québec

Co-Vice Chairs
Senator Theresa Gerratana
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan
Deputy Speaker
Connecticut

Director
Wendell M. Hannaford

RESOLUTION # HC2016-01

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING THE MEDICAID
STATE/FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP**

Whereas, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 ERC member states from Maine to Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and five ERC member eastern Canadian Provinces; and

Whereas, President Lyndon Johnson signed Title XIX of the Social Security Act in 1965, creating the Medicaid program to provide medical assistance to individuals whose incomes and resources were insufficient to meet the costs of necessary medical services; and

Whereas, the Medicaid program is a successful partnership between the states and the federal government, allowing states to craft programs that meet their unique strengths and challenges within a national framework; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program costs are shared between the federal and state governments based on a matching formula set out under law; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, commonly known as the Affordable Care Act or ACA, allowed states to opt to expand income eligibility for Medicaid to 138 percent of the federal poverty level and provided states a decreasing federal match for expenditures to cover necessary medical services for enrollees in the new income eligibility cohort which decreases from 100 percent in calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to 90 percent in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is an entitlement program for individuals who meet certain qualifications and income eligibility; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is also an entitlement program for states who are guaranteed the federal matching share for all necessary medical services provided to Medicaid enrollees without individual state or national spending caps; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is a counter-cyclical program, providing states critical federal financial aid during economic recessionary periods when program demand increases; and

WHEREAS, federal law and policies set out a broad framework for Medicaid however states are provided flexibility to design a state Medicaid program that meets their unique state needs; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program is the nation's primary source of health insurance coverage for low-income populations, in 2016 covering over 15 million enrollees in CSG/ERC states; providing essential health services and financial stability to working families; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program provides critical financial resources for health care providers and institutions who care for the underserved, supporting the region's health care infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, total Medicaid expenditures for CSG/ERC states in FY 2015 totaled \$141 billion and 57 percent of that total was provided by federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Budget Officers reports that in SFY 2016, Medicaid expenditures accounted for up to 37% of CSG/ERC state budgets.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that CSG/ERC urges that the federal Executive and Legislative Branches maintain the integrity of the strong state-federal partnership that has been the hallmark of the Medicaid program since its inception more than five decades ago, and that any reforms to federal Medicaid law and policies avoid the imposition of new burdens on state budgets or programs.

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.