



*A collective vision and voice dedicated to preventing child abuse and the victimization of children.*

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**Dear Member of the PA Congressional delegation:**

We are deeply distressed that Congress has failed to enact a temporary extension of the enhanced federal Medicaid match rate (FMAP).

Our distress is heightened by indications from the Rendell Administration and lawmakers that without the nearly \$850 million in extended enhanced FMAP funds alarming reductions would be required in public and private services and staffing dedicated to the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse, domestic and sexual violence services, and other services fundamental to strengthening families and keeping children safe at home.

**We are calling on you to assure that Congress immediately finalizes action on a temporary extension of FMAP.**

We fully appreciate that the Great Recession undermined the financial well-being of the Commonwealth and of families all across the state. In fact we have been on the front lines of this economic crisis.

We have been the advocates, professionals and agencies that even within our own budget constraints and reduced staffing have been asked to pick up the pieces. We've been there when economic strain and high unemployment have fractured a family, when a child has been physically and emotionally injured from abuse, a mom is trying to be a capable parent but can't connect to or afford critical drug and alcohol or mental health services, and we have provided the respite or shelter that have provided a lifeline to women and children fleeing abuse.

**In April, Governor Rendell illustrated cuts that would require consideration without the FMAP extension – cuts that included: a twenty-five percent reduction in child welfare services, fifty percent reduction in domestic and sexual violence services as well as elimination of drug and alcohol and homeless services.**

Any cuts, but particularly those of this magnitude, would come on top of a pattern of reduced or level funding that has not kept pace either with increased costs or dramatic increased demands for services. It also would arrive at a time when we can identify existing complications in our efforts to protect Pennsylvania's children (i.e. the state's child abuse hotline is operating with so few staff that somewhere between nine and thirteen percent of all calls to the hotline are being "abandoned," a \$1.8 million cut to Nurse Family Partnership in the current budget, a spike in domestic violence homicides, etc).

We are confident that even in these stunning times of fiscal insecurity for the Commonwealth and its families you will act quickly to finalize action on a temporary extension of FMAP. We look forward to a continued partnership with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

**A Child's Place at Mercy**  
Mary Carrasco, MD., Director

**A Way Out**  
Freda Fultz, Executive Director

**A Voice For Me, Child Advocacy Center**  
Jennifer Lytton

**A Woman's Place**  
Donna J. Byrne, Executive Director

**Alice Paul House**

Lou Ann Williams, Executive Director

**Bucks County Housing Group**

Alison M. Poole, Director of Social Services

**Citizens Against Physical, Sexual & Emotional Abuse**

JoAnne B. Weyant, Executive Director

**CareLink Community Support Services**

Eileen M. Joseph, President & CEO

**Caring People Alliance**

Arlene F. Bell, Esq., President & CEO

**Central PA Food Bank**

Kendall Hanna, Executive Director

**Centre County Women's Resource Center**

Anne K. Ard, Executive Director

**Child Watch of Pittsburgh**

Chris Smith, Executive Director

**Children's Alliance Center of Berks County**

April-Reed Schmehl, Vice President

**Clinton County Women's Center**

Cynthia Love,

**Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians**

Kathleen Daugherty, Coordinator

**Community Justice Project**

Peter Zurflieh, Staff Attorney

**Community Legal Services**

Katherine Gomez, Family Advocacy Unit Director

**Crisis Center North (Allegheny County)**

Grace Coleman, Executive Director

**Domestic Violence Intervention (Lebanon County)**

Lynn Snead, Executive Director

**Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County**

Donna "Bonnie" Glover, Executive Director

**Domestic Violence Service Center (Luzerne & Carbon Counties)**

Paula Triano, Executive Director

**Family and Community Service of Delaware County**

Alan Edelstein, Executive Director

**Family Design Resources**

Brenda Lawrence, Executive Director

**Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley**

Michael Zimmerman, Executive Director

**Family Service of Chester County**

Burroughs Mack, Executive Director

**Family Support Policy Board**

Ruth Kolb, Director

**Greater Washington County Food Bank**

Lisa Nucetelli

**HAVIN ( Helping All Victims in Need)**

Jo Ellen Bowman, MSW, LSW, Executive Director

**Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania**

Elizabeth G. Hersh, Executive Director

**Huntingdon House**

Kathy J. Whalen, Executive Director

**Institute for the Study of Civic Values**

Ed Schwartz, Director

**Juvenile Law Center**

Robert Schwartz, Executive Director

**Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA**

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Director

**Maternity Care Coalition**

Joanne Fischer, Executive Director

**National Association of Social Workers –PA Chapter**

Jenna Mehnert, Executive Director

**North Boroughs OB/GYN Association**

Katie Herzog

**Pathways PA**

Carol Goertzel, President & CEO

**PA Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers and MDTs**

Joan Mills, President

**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

Peg J. Dierkers, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape**

Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Community Providers Association**

George J. Kimes, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services**

Bernadette M. Bianchi, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Council of Churches**

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Public Advocacy

**Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates**

Dennis Hockensmith, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Head Start Association**

Blair Hyatt, Executive Director

**Pennsylvania Social Services Union, SEIU Local 668**

Kathy Jellison, President

**People's Emergency Center**

Gloria Guard, President

**Philadelphia Children's Alliance**

Chris Kirchner, Executive Director

**Pressley Ridge**

Scott Spangler, Vice President Community Based Services

**Project H.O.M.E.**

Laura Weinbaum, Policy Director

**Protect Our Children Committee**

Cathleen Palm, Executive Director

**SAFE**

Donna Keller, Director

**Safe Horizons**

Lori Palisin, Executive Director

**SafeNet**

Linda Lyons King, Executive Director

**SEIU PA State Council**

Eileen Connelly, Executive Director

**Sullivan County Victim Services**

Marty Gates, Executive Director

**Support Center for Child Advocates**

Frank Cervone, Executive Director

**Susquehanna Consulting & Financial Group**

Karen Snider, President

**The Abuse Network, Inc.**

Crystal Paige, Business Director

**United Way of Westmoreland County**

Nancy Kukovich, Executive Director

**Victims' Intervention Program**

Michele Minor Wolf, Executive Director

**Washington County Children & Youth Services**

Lori Harbert

**Washington Women's Shelter Inc. in Greene**

Michelle Robinson-Ritter, Executive Director

**Women Against Abuse**

Jeannine L. Lisitski, Executive Director

**Women's Center of Montgomery County**

Maria Macaluso, Executive Director

**Women in Need**

Barbara Channing, Executive Director

**Women In Transition, Inc**

Roberta Hacker, Executive Director

**Women's Law Project**

Carol Tracy, Executive Director

**Women's Resource Center**

Peg Ruddy, Director

**YWCA / Wise Options**

Deborah E. Shivetts, Executive Director

**INDIVIDUALS**

Jason Anders (Chester County)

Maureen Barber-Carey (Erie County)

Harriet F. Barsky (Bucks County)

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Joycelynn Brady (Allegheny County)

Bradley C. Brown (Delaware County)

Sandra Capps (Montgomery County)

Nancy B. Chesnut (McKean County)

Sheila Christopher (Washington County)

Robert Cicco (Allegheny County)

Mary Eileen Cokley (Allegheny County)

Christine Coach (Bucks County)

Sandie Colatrella (Allegheny County)

Annette Conn (Bucks County)

David Cramer (Montgomery County)

Kelsey Dailey (Montgomery County)

Alicia Dal Lago (Allegheny County)

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Jaime Davis (Philadelphia)

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Lillian G. Sulliman (Montgomery County)  
John Strader (Montgomery County)  
Letty Thall (Philadelphia)  
Valerie Vitale (Montgomery County)  
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Beth Westhuis (Montgomery County)  
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