



Anouncement from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

Congressional Action Critical to Avoid Cuts to Developmental Disability Home and Community Based Waiver

The Florida House has passed their Appropriations Act. There were no new budget changes for services. The cuts that remain in the House are a cap of \$120,000 on Tier One cost plans and the elimination of behavior assistance services in group homes.

The Florida Senate also passed their Appropriations Act. Sen. Peadar sponsored an amendment that had passed in the full Appropriations Committee to restore most of the cuts to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) if the enhanced Medicaid extension dollars - Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) - come from the federal government.

If the Federal Medicaid Match dollars are authorized there will be no cuts to dollars for consumer cost plans, APD providers and Intermediate Care facilities. The Senate shares the \$120,000 cap to Tier One and the behavioral assistance cuts to group homes that the House has in their budget. Because these issues are the same in the House and the Senate, they will not be looked at again in the Budget Conference meetings. The Budget Conference process is a process of negotiating budget item differences from the House and the Senate.

Our attention now turns to Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives has been preoccupied with health care reform and does not yet have a date on when they will address the FMAP issue. A jobs bill that includes the enhanced FMAP recently passed the Senate and now must be taken up by the House. The reality is, if it is not done by June 30, state administrators will have little to choose but to begin reducing expenditures.

The Council will be contacting Florida's members of Congress and telling them that enacting FMAP for Florida and other states is imperative NOW in order to avoid cuts to services for people with Developmental Disabilities that would begin on July 1. It is important that they hear from you.

Congress is on a break until April 12 so members may be visited in their districts or contact them through their Washington offices. A list of members is attached. Note: most Congressmen will not release their email addresses because they want the public to use the forms on their web sites. This allows them to more easily categorize email and to avoid spam but it precludes mass emailing on the part of constituents. Faxes are also very effective with this group.

<u>U. S. Representative.</u>	<u>D.C. Telephone</u>	<u>D.C. Fax</u>
<u>Jeff Miller</u>	202-225-4136	202-225-3414
<u>Allen Boyd</u>	202-225-5235	202-225-5615
<u>Corine Brown</u>	202-225-0123	202-225-2256
<u>Ander Crenshaw</u>	202-225-2501	202-225-2504
<u>Ginny Brown-Waite</u>	202-225-1002	202-226-6559
<u>Cliff Stearns</u>	202-225-5744	202-225-3973
<u>John H. Mica</u>	202-225-4035	202-226-0821
<u>Alan Grayson</u>	202-225-2176	202-225-0999
<u>Gus Bilirakis</u>	202-225-5755	202-225-4085
<u>C. W. Bill Young</u>	202-225-5961	202-225-9764
<u>Kathy Castor</u>	202-225-3376	202-225-5652
<u>Adam H.Putnam</u>	202-225-1252	202-226-0585
<u>Vern Buchanan</u>	202-225-5015	202-226-0828
<u>Connie Mack</u>	202-225-2536	202-226-0439
<u>Bill Posey</u>	202-225-3671	202-225-3516
<u>Thomas J. Rooney</u>	202-225-5792	202-225-3132
<u>Kendrick Meek</u>	202-225-4506	202-226-0777
<u>Ileana Ros-Lehtinen</u>	202-225-3931	202-225-5620

Robert Wexler 202-225-3001 202-225-5974 Announced on 3/18 he will resign

<u>Debbie Wasserman Schultz</u>	202-225-7931	202-226-2052
<u>Lincoln Diaz-Balart</u>	202-225-4211	202-225-8576
<u>Ron Klein</u>	202-225-3026	202-225-8398
<u>Alcee L. Hastings</u>	202-225-1313	202-225-1171
<u>Suzanne M. Kosmas</u>	202-225-2706	202-226-6299
<u>Mario Diaz-Balart</u>	202-225-2778	202-226-0346