



American Public Human Services Association

February 16, 2010



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, we strongly urge you to extend the increased FMAP rate of 6.2 percent for another two quarters.

As the only organization solely devoted to representing administrators of state and local public child welfare agencies, NAPCWA brings an informed view of the problems today's families are facing to the forefront of child welfare policy.

As you know, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$87 billion in fiscal relief to states and localities by increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rate. In addition to Medicaid, Title IV-E foster care, adoption and guardianship were included in this FMAP increase. States continue to see significant budget cuts to social services for at-risk children and families. States report that the additional resources provided by the increased FMAP assist in providing vital child welfare and permanency services to children and families in need. Moreover, these resources help child welfare administrators meet the goals of the new Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351).

The additional IV-E resources will expire on Dec. 31, 2010. Any jobs package or health care reform legislation must include at least a two-quarter extension, as was accomplished in the House of Representatives last year.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to improve the lives of children and families. Please do not hesitate to contact Courtney Holden, NAPCWA's senior legislative associate, at (202) 682-0100 x249 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Erin Sullivan Sutton'.

Erin Sullivan Sutton
NAPCWA President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cari DeSantis'.

Cari DeSantis
APHSA Interim Executive Director