

## **FMAP Sample Letters to the Editor (Oregon)**

1.

I need Medicaid because [ ]. I depend on Medicaid for my well-being, but now it is being cut back – and my health is suffering as a direct result. Oregon would be able to avert many of these cutbacks if the federal government gave us fiscal relief by boosting its portion of Medicaid payments (called “FMAP”). Congress should put families first and ensure that health care for Oregon’s families is included in the federal budget. Our Senators Smith and Wyden have supported an FMAP increase in the past, and I ask them to continue their support when it’s time to vote again on FMAP.

2.

Times are bleak in Oregon. Our jobs are becoming scarcer and our more and more it seems like health care won’t be there when we need it. This winter, our state put Medicaid to the knife. As a result, many people with life-threatening conditions, including seniors, have had their prescription drug coverage taken away, and now their very survival is at stake. The federal government should help Oregon keep our Medicaid program strong and increase the percentage it pays toward Medicaid. (This is called FMAP in the technical lingo.) It’s time now to put Oregon’s families first. Our Congresspeople should vote health care, and vote FMAP.

3.

The health of Oregon’s families is under attack, and we will all suffer as a result. I am one of hundreds of thousands in our state who would have no health care if it weren’t for Medicaid. Medicaid also generates important economic stimulus and creates new jobs. Oregon needs fiscal relief from the federal government so that we can weather the storm and protect our much-needed Medicaid program – instead of putting it on the chopping block. It’s time to put Oregon’s families first. Our Congresspeople should increase “FMAP,” the federal share of Medicaid costs – or we will all feel the consequences. Federal fiscal relief for Medicaid is an investment in the long-term health of all Americans. A vote for FMAP is a vote for Oregon’s families.

4.

The health of our nation is a matter of homeland security, and I have an idea about how to protect the country: federal fiscal relief to the states. Our Medicaid programs are hurting. Without some fiscal relief in the form of an “FMAP” increase (the feds’ share of Medicaid spending), lawmakers will continue to take health care away from the people who need it most. This has already begun happening in our state. In February, thousands of people were been stripped of their drug coverage. When recipients of organ transplants cried out that they would reject their new organs without medications, the state decided to pay temporarily for their prescriptions. But the need for health care isn’t temporary. Our representatives in Congress should put families first and vote for FMAP.

Senators Smith and Wyden have already shown their support for an FMAP increase, and I ask them to renew that support when an FMAP vote comes up in Congress.

5.

Where do you get health coverage for your kids if your employer doesn't provide it? How do you get insurance for yourself and your family if you've lost your job and are looking for work? What about if you're an older person who needs long-term care? Or a disabled person who needs some help to live in the community rather than being institutionalized? Chances are you'd be using Medicaid. And that's why you should worry about cutbacks to this program – cutbacks that are already threatening the lives of thousands of Oregonians. It's time our Congressional representatives put families first. I'm urging them to provide more support for Medicaid and increase "FMAP" (the federal share of Medicaid funding). Otherwise the program may not be there for you when you need it.

6.

The federal government is turning its back on the states and families when we most need help. With our current budget situation, lawmakers have begun cutting Medicaid, a program that provides health care to hundreds of thousands of Oregonians and generates billions in economic activity. A lot of this pressure would be alleviated if the federal government increased its portion of Medicaid funding ("FMAP"). An FMAP increase would go a long way to helping Oregon protect its health and economy. Our Congressional representatives should put families first and vote for FMAP.