



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chair, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy
and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the 120,900 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I write to share our concerns about the *Common Sense Budget Savings Act* (HR 4725). While the AAFP understands the Committee's interest in saving \$25 billion for the federal government, we are very concerned the bill may reduce access to health care for vulnerable populations and harm progress in public health.

We are concerned HR 4725 would hamper states' efforts to expand Medicaid and would affect at least 26 states. Eliminating the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), under Section 5, would negatively impact access to essential health care services. This enhanced FMAP is crucial for many states in providing this higher level of access. According to a 2015 study from the National Bureau of Economic Research, children on Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program have better health and life outcomes. We urge you to reconsider this policy.

HR 4725 eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund), the first federal program dedicated solely to public health promotion. The Prevention Fund supports a range of important health priorities, such as reducing childhood obesity and encouraging smoking cessation. As family physicians, we know the evidence is very strong that investments in disease prevention can improve health and reduce spending. We strongly urge you to keep the Prevention Fund intact.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Wergin, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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