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June 6, 2008

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Robert W. Glover, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
NASMHPD

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Fax: 202-225-4188

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Fax: 202-225-5117

Dear Representatives Pelosi and Boehner:

On behalf of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), I am writing to express our strong support for delaying implementation of seven Medicaid rules, already approved in House and Senate versions of the supplemental spending bill. NASMHPD represents the \$29.5 billion public mental health service delivery system serving 6.1 million annually. It represents state mental health commissioners/directors and their agencies and is an affiliate of the National Governors Association (NGA). NASMHPD wholeheartedly agrees with the Governors' statement that "...the issues raised by all of these regulations deserve more thoughtful, detailed and collaborative discussions to best serve their citizens. Congress must have sufficient time to act appropriately on them..."

By postponing the implementation of seven Medicaid regulations until April 1, 2009, this legislation gives Congress time to address the issues raised in the regulations as well as assess their combined impact on the states. Two of these regulations---rehabilitation option and case management---are of particular concern to NASMHPD members. The rehabilitative option pays for evidence-based practices such as Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) that provide comprehensive services to individuals with serious mental illnesses who are at risk of institutionalization. The savings of over \$2 billion from these proposed regulations were not included in the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA).

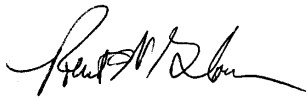
While the DRA did recommend changes in case management services, it is our view that the interim final rule goes well beyond what Congress intended. Among the most concerning changes in the case management regulation is the reduction in days and other limits on case management services for individuals who are leaving institutions. The limitations that went into effect recently could have the unintended consequence of increasing re-institutionalization. These regulations

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jeopardize the effective delivery of case management services for individuals with mental illness who have complex needs related to housing, employment and health care.

Medicaid provides life-saving services to millions of individuals with chronic mental illnesses. It is critical to allow time for Congress to deliberate and assess the issues raised in the seven Medicaid regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert W. Glover, PhD  
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Dave Obey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee