

Virginia has the seventh lowest federal grant per person in poverty. Virginia is below the national average in state Medicaid spending per beneficiary. 75% of its Medicaid expenditures are on mandatory services and 25% are on optional services . . . this is below the national average.

(States must offer a minimum acute care benefit package to their eligible populations. They can cover other acute services at their discretion. States vary widely in their coverage of optional acute services.)

Virginia has established tight eligibility standards. Thus, although Virginia has a higher poverty rate than Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island (and closely trails New York), Virginia covers less than half of its poor residents in Medicaid, while these other states have enrolled 60-90% of their poor.

DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENTS TO HOSPITALS

In the early 1990's, some states aggressively pursued DSH money in order to leverage more federal dollars. DSH payments were intended to help hospitals serving high volumes of uninsured and Medicaid patients. They did this by adding money generated from hospital assessments and "voluntary payments" from hospitals and adding that to state funds, in order to leverage more federal matching funds, and then paid back that money to those hospitals. Until these schemes were controlled in 1993, many states received huge amounts of federal Medicaid dollars, which they spent on general state needs. Two-thirds of DSH spending is concentrated in 8 states. DSH payments to Northeast high cost states are 6-16 times higher than in Virginia.

Virginia chose not to participate in aggressively capturing DSH dollars, as they felt it was an inappropriate use of federal funds.

The proposed Medicaid block grants lock the DSH inequities into place, leaving Virginia with only a small amount of DSH funds. Those states like NH, LA, NY, CT, NJ, will continue to receive significant DSH dollars under the block grant.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The block grant does not take into consideration the changing demographic trends in Virginia. The population is aging and the percentage of older Americans moving into Virginia from other states is increasing.

By 2020, the total population of VA. will number 8.4 million, up from 6.5 million in 1990. The elderly are the fastest growing segment of the population. Residents older than 65 will increase from 7.3% to 15.7% of the total population. There will be five times as many Virginians older than 75 and nine times as many Virginians older than 85 as there were in 1960. The elderly are the heaviest users of health care; it is reasonable to assume a growing percentage of this population will become Medicaid-dependent for nursing home care and other long term care services at an increasingly high cost.

WHAT HAS THE STATE DONE TO MAXIMIZE ITS MEDICAID DOLLARS?

Virginia has implemented a number of cost containment techniques to improve "efficiency" of the Medicaid program. The Va. Dept. of Medical Assistance estimated in 1994 that since 1982, Virginia has realized about \$217 million dollars annually in savings and cost avoidance through cost containment measures including:

- Medicaid managed care
- Moratorium on nursing home construction
- Limits on inpatient hospital admission before non-emergency surgery
- Expanded use of generic drugs
- Utilization management for hospital and other services

Preadmission screening for nursing home applicants

Adult day care alternatives to nursing home placement

24-hour obstetric discharge using a home health alternative

As a result of improved efficiency, Virginia has not required continued large increases in federal matching dollars. Yet, the state will be penalized for prudent and judicious use of Medicaid money. Those states with inefficiently run programs that are high cost to the federal government, including those states that illegally garnered DSH dollars, will continue to receive the highest contribution. The current Medicaid program is flexible enough to allow Va. to receive more federal dollars as the needs and available resources change. The proposed block grant proposal bases consideration of future federal funding on current levels, regardless of each state's future needs.

What should be incorporated into the Medicaid block grant is an effort to move all states to an equitable level of federal financial support per capita. That is not unlike the policy in place for the Medicare program. When that program moved from a cost-based reimbursement to reimbursement by diagnosis-related group, formerly vastly different rates paid to providers were moved to a national rate adjusted only by the special labor costs within regions. This uniformly provides the same incentives to all states to operate efficient Medicaid programs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HANSEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 12:30 p.m. today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. EMERSON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of a doctor's appointment.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POSHARD, for 5 minutes today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. ROEMER, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. BENTSEN, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. VOLKMER, for 5 minutes today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIAHRT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes today.

Mr. COX of California, for 5 minutes today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIAHRT) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HERGER.

Mr. SAXTON.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. HASTERT.

Mr. RUSH.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Mr. REED.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. WILSON.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1331. An act to adjust and make uniform the dollar amounts used in title 18 to distinguish between grades of offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1465. An act to extend au pair programs; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 325. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for an optional provision for the reduction of work-related vehicle trips and miles travelled in ozone nonattainment areas designated as severe, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 1240. An act to combat crime by enhancing the penalties for certain sexual crimes against children.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 15, 1995, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1840. A letter from the Director, the Office of Management and Budget, Transmitting the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals of budget authority as of December 1, 1995, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685(e) (H. Doc. No. 104-146); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

1841. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the 59th annual report of the National Labor Relations Board, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 154(c); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

1842. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1995, through September 30, 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1843. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Parole Commission Phase-Out Act of 1995"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1844. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled "The Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program, Annual Report to Congress FY 1994," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9604; to the Committee on Science.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SOLOMON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 307. Resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. 104-407). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CLINGER: Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. H.R. 2661. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to permit the District of Columbia to expend its own funds during any portion of a fiscal year for which Congress has not enacted the budget of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year, and to provide for the appropriation of a monthly prorated portion of the annual Federal payment to the District of Columbia for such fiscal year during such portion of the year; with amendments (Rept. 104-408). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky:

H.R. 2778. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services for

the peacekeeping effort in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be entitled to certain tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COX (for himself, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. JONES, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LINDER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, and Mr. WICKER):

H.R. 2779. A bill to provide for soft-metric conversion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MICA, and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H.R. 2780. A bill to specify the circumstances in which compensation may or may not be afforded to Federal and District of Columbia employees for the period of a lapse in appropriations for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

By Mr. ENSIGN:

H.R. 2781. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide loan guarantees for water supply, conservation, quality, and transmission projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. BLUTE):

H.R. 2782. A bill to authorize funds to further the public service mission of the Joseph W. Martin, Jr. Institute for Law and Society; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2783. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the President to issue loan guarantees for economic development and job creation activities in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PARKER):

H.R. 2784. A bill to provide clarification in the reimbursement to States for federally funded employees carrying out Federal programs during the lapse in appropriations between November 14, 1995, through November 19, 1995; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 264: Ms. FURSE.

H.R. 528: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GOODLING, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BROWN of California, and Mr. SKEEN.

H.R. 761: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FROST, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. MARTINEZ.

H.R. 878: Mr. KING.

H.R. 1050: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 1094: Mr. EVANS and Mrs. THURMAN.

H.R. 1377: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 1448: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1499: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1535: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 1627: Mrs. CLAYTON.

H.R. 1684: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. QUILLEN, and Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 1701: Mr. MINGE.

H.R. 1889: Mr. FOX, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. TEJEDA, and Mr. TORKILDSEN.

H.R. 2027: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 2098: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 2178: Mr. MARTINEZ.

H.R. 2198: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. LIVINGSTON.

H.R. 2220: Mr. WICKER.

H.R. 2281: Mr. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. CHAPMAN.

H.R. 2350: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2443: Mr. FOX.

H.R. 2450: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2567: Mr. HAYES and Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 2580: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida.

H.R. 2618: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 2657: Mr. CHAPMAN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ISTOOK, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBEY, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. EWING, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. KASICH, Mr. KIM, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MYERS of Indiana, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REGULA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. SKAGGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. ZIMMER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. BROWDER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 2682: Mr. QUINN and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2727: Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COOLEY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. POMBO, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. VUCANOVICH, and Mr. NEUMANN.

H.R. 2740: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2748: Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2757: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. FOX.

H.R. 2772: Mr. FORBES.

H.J. Res. 117: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. LUTHER.

H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. FUNDERBURK and Mr. COOLEY.

H. Res. 220: Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, and Mr. DEUTSCH.

H. Res. 285: Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. ZIMMER.

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H. Res. 220: Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, and Mr. DEUTSCH.

H. Res. 285: Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. ZIMMER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2644: Mr. BROWNBACK.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 6 of rule XXIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 1020

OFFERED BY: Mr. ENSIGN

AMENDMENT No. 21: Page 19, line 23, insert after the period the following: "If the construction of the rail line authorized by subsection (a) is not completed by 5 years after the date the Secretary first used heavy-haul truck transport under this paragraph, the Secretary may not use such transport after the expiration of such 5 years."