



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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March 17, 2015

The Honorable Robert Sprague  
Chair  
Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 13th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: American Medical Association opposition to Medicaid payment cuts

Dear Chair Sprague:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write in opposition of the Executive Budget Proposal to cut Medicaid reimbursement rates to physicians treating patients covered by both Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligibles).

Research has demonstrated that low Medicaid reimbursement rates significantly affect a physician's ability to accept Medicaid patients into his or her practice. Without adequate reimbursement rates physicians may not have the financial capacity to continue treating dual eligibles, patients who tend to be sicker than other Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Without adequate supply of Medicaid-participating physicians, these patients are likely to face barriers to care, which may result in increased emergency department visits and costly, delayed care for chronic conditions.

The AMA believes that everyone deserves access to quality health care and that all physicians seeing Medicaid patients should receive adequate payment rates to ensure patients have access to necessary health care services. We thank you for your consideration of this important issue and respectfully urge you to pass a budget that maintains funding for dual eligibles. If you have any questions, please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at [annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org](mailto:annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Carl A. Sirio, MD  
Ohio State Medical Association