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The Honorable Joe Baca
United States House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

HR 5613 (Dingle and Murphy)
Position: Support

Dear Representative Baca:

The California Small School Districts' Association (CSSDA) requests your co-sponsorship and support for HR 5613 introduced by Representatives John Dingle and Tim Murphy. HR 5613, the Protecting Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, would allow school districts to continue claiming reimbursement for costs incurred in the transportation and administration of special education programs serving students from low-income families. Currently, this claiming is scheduled to terminate by decision of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. This termination was not done by statute, and in fact was done notwithstanding Congressional direction to continue funding for these needed reimbursements. HR 5613 would reverse that bureaucratic decision.

Small and rural school districts are highly disadvantaged by the decision to discontinue reimbursement for transportation costs. Small school districts are generally in rural areas; consequently, they have significant transportation costs to ensure special education students receive all appropriate medical care pursuant to their individualized education programs.

Small school districts have fewer personnel who can complete all paperwork and provide necessary services for special education students. Administrative costs in small districts frequently are a higher percentage of a small school district budget than they are for a larger district budget. Consequently, rural school districts would be significantly affected by the decision to discontinue administrative reimbursements.

For these reasons the California Small School Districts' Association requests your co-sponsorship and support for HR 5613. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Walrath

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