

**Washington, DC** - This afternoon the House passed H.R. 5613, the bipartisan &quot;[Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act](#)&quot; a bill that places a moratorium until March 2009 on seven Administration-imposed Medicaid regulations. A failure to pass the moratorium would lead to the proposed regulations cutting federal Medicaid funding to states for certain programs and services by approximately \$18 billion over the next five years.

Rather than forcing through the Administration's proposed rule changes, the bill calls for an independent review of the seven regulations prior to the expiration of the March 2009 moratorium. H.R. 5613 has been publicly supported by Texas Governor Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, and Texas State Medicaid Director Chris Taylor. In addition, various groups representing American children and senior citizens, more than 2,000 organizations in total, have publicly supported this legislation.

In Texas, one out of three children receives healthcare courtesy of Medicaid. The state, however, would potentially lose \$3.4 billion over five years for Medicaid programs and services if the Bush Administration's proposed rule changes were implemented.

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on the legislation:

&quot;The last thing our struggling economy needs right now is a proposal that would cost low-income Americans and senior citizens important Medicaid programs and services to the tune of \$18 billion over five years. The Administration's proposals would negatively impact state budgets for Medicaid at a critical time when we should be investing federal dollars in the program. I'm proud to have played a role in passing this moratorium and I will continue to advocate for similar provisions in the future that will keep our federal investment in Medicaid intact.&quot;

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