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**Long-Term Care Leaders & Nursing Home Residents Urge Congressman Kratovil  
To Support Critical Medicaid Funding**

**Maryland Long-Term Care Leaders, Nursing Home Residents Urge U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil  
To Support Critical Extension of \$474.9 Million Emergency Medicaid Funding**  
*Congressman Praised For Calling Upon House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
to Reduce Size of Federal Medicare Cuts During Health Care Reform Debate*

**Forest Hill, MD** – In praising Congressman Frank Kratovil (D-MD) for ensuring House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was aware that Medicare cuts in the House version of federal health care reform were too high and would undermine Maryland seniors' access to quality nursing home care, a key Maryland long-term care leader was joined by nursing home residents and facility staff today to urge the Congressman to help extend emergency Medicaid relief for Maryland now pending before Congress. At issue is \$474.9 million in enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding for Maryland that Governor Martin O'Malley has already included in his FY11 budget as he attempts to protect vulnerable citizens from the negative impact of the ongoing national recession.

In urging support for this critical FMAP extension and discussing how quality eldercare is contingent upon the combination of robust Medicare and Medicaid funding, Joseph DeMattos, president of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), warned that every day Congress waits to pass this measure seniors' care is placed in growing jeopardy, facility staffing stability is being compromised, and good, local health jobs are being put at risk.

"If Congress fails to take action and pass the extension of FMAP funds, dozens of states – including Maryland – will suffer large, painful budget cuts to programs that serve our oldest and most vulnerable citizens," said DeMattos. "We urge Congressman Kratovil and his federal colleagues to expedite passage of this vital funding extension the Maryland General Assembly has literally already budgeted to ensure seniors throughout Maryland retain ongoing access to quality long-term care." DeMattos noted that Rep. Kratovil was instrumental late last year in an effort to urge House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to reduce the size of federal Medicare cuts contained in the House version of health care reform. "Congressman Kratovil has already proven during the health care reform debate that he cares about the well being of Maryland seniors in addition to the fact he is not afraid to stand up to the House Leadership. Now, more than ever, we need his help again to pass this Medicaid relief."

(more)

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 included a temporary increase in the Medicaid FMAP. This enhanced federal match is set to expire on December 31, 2010 – in the middle of Maryland’s fiscal year. Without an extension of the enhanced funding, Maryland stands to lose \$474.9 million. The additional FMAP funding of \$474.9 million equals more than \$1 billion in business activity in Maryland including 9,000 health care jobs resulting in \$363 million in wages. (Source: *Families USA Special Report: visit: <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/states-in-need.pdf>*)

“Without this funding, there is no doubt that the State will be forced to cut funding for the care of Marylanders most in need. Those additional cuts would go so deep that we are concerned about ensuring the continued quality care to our residents,” said Brian Klausmeyer, administrator of the Forest Hill nursing facility. “If we get hit again with cuts, I will need to reduce programs, forgo hiring new employees and delay much-needed building improvements and equipment purchases.”

Twenty-four states (Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Washington) have already budgeted assuming extension of the enhanced FMAP. Over the past two fiscal years through the state’s legislative budgeting process, as well as through actions by the Board of Public Works, nearly \$400 million has already been cut from Maryland’s Medicaid budget. On average, three of every four patients rely on government funding to pay for skilled nursing care. Consequently, proposed cuts to Medicaid or other federal funding are difficult for facilities to absorb since most can only adjust their rates for fewer than 25 percent of their residents.

HFAM’s 150 member facilities are major job creators and health care employment training centers – employing more than 18,000 people serving 19,000 consumers. HFAM members provide nearly four million days of Medicaid services per year to 11,000 Medicaid recipients or 69 percent of all Maryland Medicaid benefits. Also during today’s meeting, long-term care leaders and residents urged Congressman Kratovil to support the Nursing Home Patient and Medicaid Assistance Act of 2010 (H.R. 5457) recently introduced by Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), which will provide supplemental payments to nursing facilities serving Medicare/Medicaid patients.

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*Health Facilities Association of Maryland is a voluntary provider community association, chartered in 1948 as the Maryland Nursing Home Association. It is the oldest and largest long-term care association representing skilled nursing, sub-acute facilities, and assisted living programs in Maryland. HFAM has 150 member organizations, including non-profits, serving more than 19,000 Maryland consumers in need of long-term care. HFAM member organizations employ more than 18,000 people in Maryland.*