



**SHRIVER
CENTER**

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

News Release

Taking action to end poverty

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**CHICAGO-BASED NATIONAL GROUP JOINS OPPOSITION TO LAWSUIT BY
FLORIDA AND 19 OTHER STATES THAT ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK HEALTH
REFORM**

*The Shriver Center joins with other national agencies in support of the federal Patient
Protection and Affordable Care Act*

Chicago-based advocacy agency, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center), along with several other agencies has gained court permission to file a “friend of the court” (“amicus”) brief in support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in a lawsuit brought by Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum and joined by officials from a number of other states. McCollum’s suit attacks provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The amicus brief will be filed in opposition to the plaintiffs’ attack on the Medicaid program, which is the half century-old federal-state partnership program that offers health coverage to low income children, parents, seniors and people with disabilities. The lawsuit complains that the ACA’s expansion of Medicaid to cover additional low income people infringes upon states’ rights. It does this, says the suit, by converting Medicaid into a “federally-imposed universal healthcare regime” by providing such generous federal Medicaid grants that the states would have no choice but to accept.

The Shriver Center joins other national agencies including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Health Law Program and the National Disability Rights Network. The amicus brief explains for the court how the ACA simply expands a longstanding program, and that the Medicaid expansion in the ACA is well within constitutional limits and is in fact optional for states.

“In addition to being clearly constitutional, the provisions of the ACA that the lawsuit wants to block are an essential part of the promise of affordable decent healthcare for all. The Medicaid expansion offers decent health coverage to millions of lower income working people and helps others overcome medical barriers that have prevented them from working,” said John Bouman, president of the Shriver Center. “Joining this amicus brief goes to the core of our mission to promote equal opportunity.”

The amicus brief will be filed in the United States District Court, Northern District of Florida, Pensacola Division.

The Shriver Center provides national leadership in efforts to increase justice and opportunity for low-income people by ensuring a humane safety net, a chance to prosper, and a voice and representation in public decisions that affect them.