



Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein on New HHS Rules Allowing Reimbursement for Emergency Care to Undocumented Aliens

May 9, 2005

Washington, DC – The Department of Health and Human Services today announced final implementation of rules allowing hospitals and physicians to be reimbursed for emergency care provided to undocumented aliens.

Senator Feinstein has worked with Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona and others since 2002 to fight for this funding, and recently asked CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan to release these funds. (A copy of this letter is available upon request.)

The following is Senator Feinstein's statement:

“Today’s announcement will help to keep the doors of California’s safety net hospitals open. It is expected that California providers will receive \$71 million in FY 2005 in reimbursements. This funding comes at a crucial time, when nine California hospitals have closed in the past year, due in part to a spike in the costs associated with care for undocumented aliens.

I will keep a watchful eye to ensure that this funding doesn’t cut into California’s disproportionate share hospital payments or other federal payments. But the bottom line is that this is good news for California’s providers.”

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