



# Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Contact: Laura Hayes  
202-224-4515

## **Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus Family Opportunity Act: Urging the House to Reconsider its Proposed Offset**

“I have been a strong supporter of the Family Opportunity Act and have advocated, most recently in a Finance Committee hearing this year, for policies that would increase options for community living for individuals with severe disabilities. I am pleased that the House is taking steps to pass the Family Opportunity Act and the Money Follows the Person initiative.

But I am deeply concerned about the House’s decision to finance these very important policies by cutting payment for services provided to Medicaid’s most vulnerable beneficiaries: those with severe disabilities, children in foster care, and those with serious mental illness. Furthermore, the offset affects states very differently, and hurts the poorest states, like Montana, the most.

Finally, by cutting payments for coordination and case management services, we would be moving Medicaid away from the policies we have urged, on a bipartisan basis, for Medicare. We would be telling states that coordinating medical services and providing case management is not important, when all of the best thinking in health policy tells us otherwise. I urge the House to reconsider this policy. “

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