

SCOTT P. BROWN  
MASSACHUSETTS



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

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September 2, 2010

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
SOMERVILLE, MA

Mr. John J. Long  
City Clerk  
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Dear Mr. Long,

Thank you for contacting me regarding an extension of enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding. I value your input on this issue.

I understand your support for additional FMAP funding to assist states in sustaining health insurance programs for low-income individuals and families, especially in light of today's difficult economic situation where many Americans are struggling to make ends meet.

The FMAP extensions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 [P.L. 111-5] increased Medicaid payments to the states by \$90 billion and are due to expire on December 31, 2010. More recently, the Senate approved, and the President signed into law, legislation that provides an additional \$16.1 billion in FMAP funding for the states through June 30, 2011.

As this bill is paid for with permanent tax increases that will impact businesses and their employees in Massachusetts and across the country and make America less able to compete globally, I could not support it. We cannot raise taxes on businesses at a time when our economy is still struggling. We need to be doing everything we can to encourage economic growth and job creation, not hindering it. I also was concerned about the lack of debate on this bill and the ability to offer amendments to improve the legislation. Since being sworn in to the U.S. Senate, I have worked to change how things are done around here and promote transparency and accountability in order to get the legislative process moving again. Unfortunately, the Majority pushed this legislation through the Senate without debate or amendments instead of working in a bipartisan manner to find a fiscally responsible solution that does not raise taxes.

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Alternatively, I believe there is better way to provide for the extension of programs such as FMAP by reining in Washington's excessive spending habits and not raising taxes. To that end, on June 30, 2010, I introduced the Fiscally Responsible Relief to Our States Act (S. 3551), which provides the same \$16.1 billion for FMAP, as well as extending emergency unemployment benefits and funding a summer jobs program. Instead of raising taxes or adding to our nation's record \$13 trillion debt to pay for these programs, my legislation taps into unspent stimulus dollars and cuts other unnecessary federal spending. Unfortunately, the Majority chose not to consider this compromise and fiscally responsible solution.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me. If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott P. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Scott P. Brown  
United States Senator