

Opening Statement of Senator Herb Kohl
Special Committee on Aging Roundtable
Medicaid Managed Care
September 13, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome all of our participants.

I congratulate the Chairman for undertaking this ambitious agenda to examine Medicaid, its challenges, and bipartisan proposals for reform.

There is no question that the current trends in Medicaid growth and spending are not sustainable for the federal or state governments. We all agree we need to cut costs; the question is how to do that without endangering the most vulnerable in our society.

I'm pleased to have with us a distinguished panel of experts today as we explore Medicaid managed care for our high-cost populations, such as dual-eligibles, the disabled and people with chronic conditions. I look forward to hearing your recommendations to improve the care they receive through better coordination of services while reducing costs.

Again, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this roundtable and I look forward to working with you on this issue.