



AMERICANS FOR
LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615-F
Washington, D.C. 20201

May 12th, 2009

Dear Madam Secretary,

You currently have under consideration an appeal by the State of California to a ruling by the Center of Medicare and Medicaid. The Center's ruling is, in our view, a gross violation of the principle of federalism and a move that can only be described as thuggish aggression.

The facts are simple.

The State of California, through its elected Legislature with agreement from the Governor, decided on a series of actions to reduce government expenditures. This reduction is critically important. The State is in deep debt, has already increased taxes to the point of diminishing returns, and is facing further erosion in its business base.

These reductions were opposed by a hard-Leftist union, the Service Employees International Union. Despite the fact that the Legislature is overwhelmingly Democratic, with many of the members having received financial support from SEIU in the past, the Legislature took its responsibility seriously and voted to make the cuts.

It was at that point that SEIU employed the tactics that have earned it the disdain of all honest Americans. As a private, third party, SEIU participated in a conference call between the Center of Medicare and Medicaid and the State of California where the Center threatened to withhold emergency stimulus funds from California unless the demands of the union were met. The fact that SEIU was even on the call raises the issue of the independence of the agency. Will campaign donors be involved in future government to government discussions? Will policy be based on what the SEIU wants or doesn't want?

Madam Secretary, for an agency under your control to threaten a State government as a service to a private organization – and the SEIU is a private organization – smacks of favoritism to a degree not seen in Washington since the days of the Teapot Dome scandal.

On behalf of the more than 500,000 members and supporters of Americans for Limited Government, I urge you to stand on the side of federalism as defined by the U.S. Constitution and for the people of California by directing the Center of Medicare and Medicaid to rescind their threat and release the funds to California.

Please respect the concept of representative government by allowing California to make its own decisions without fear of retribution from an oppressive federal authority or vindictive union officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Wilson".

William Wilson
President
Americans for Limited Government

CC: Governor of the State of California Arnold Schwarzenegger