

# **CONGRESSWOMAN BETTY MC COLLUM**

**Listening Session  
Monday January 30, 2006**

## **BUDGET RECONCILIATION IMPACT ON COUNTIES**

**Nancy Schouweiler, President of AMC**

This policy initiative has been identified as a method to control the growth in Medicaid spending. In reality it is a cost shift to the property taxpayers in Minnesota Counties. The identified cuts are targeted for programs that are less expensive to administer and produce better outcomes. The reduction and in some cases elimination of these funds will take away the last 20 years of progress in serving vulnerable people with very special needs, in order to reduce the Federal Budget less than .03% for the next 5 years.

The impact of these budget cuts is not a matter of tightening our belts, or reducing administrative costs, these cuts will impact services that assist in keeping people in their homes and in their communities. Minnesota is one of a handful of states in which Federal funding for some social service and health programs flows directly to Counties, specifically MFIP, Social Service Block Grant, Title IV-E, and Targeted case

management. The state of Minnesota does NOT contribute funding for these programs and since they are mandated at both the state and federal level, the only way to make up for the loss of these funds is ~~by~~ <sup>will be to</sup> <sub>increase</sub> increasing property taxes.

### Targeted Case Management

Coordinates services, controls utilization and substitutes community support services for expensive institutional care, specifically; CHILD PROTECTION, CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED, ELDERLY, and ADULT MENTAL HEALTH. For example, services for children who have been abused or neglected as a result of parental METH use are paid for with these funds.

### **RAMSEY COUNTY:**

|                     |                   |              |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| TCM Cuts            | \$8,195,193 total | 102.25 staff |
| Child Protection    | \$5,721,636       | 71.5 staff   |
| Adult Mental Health | \$1,282,000       | 16 staff     |
| Elderly             | \$319,000         | 4 staff      |
| DD                  | \$412,557         | 5 staff      |

**DAKOTA COUNTY:**

|                          |                |           |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| TCM cuts                 | \$2.97 million | 35 staff  |
| Child Protection         | \$1,451,120    | 17 staff  |
| Children's Mental Health | \$297,392      | 3.5 staff |
| Adult Mental Health      | \$660,755      | 7.5 staff |
| Elderly                  | \$144,255      | 2 staff   |
| DD                       | \$419,255      | 5 staff   |

The property taxpayers of Minnesota should not bear the burden of misplaced priorities. Less staff equates to higher caseloads, which means less attention to needs and services until a point of crisis is reached, which always results in higher costs. All of these consequences will be the result of trying to save .03% of the federal budget over the next 5 years.