



News Release

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Supervisor Neuzil Committed to Protecting Mental Health Funding

Participates in NACO's 2010 Legislative Conference in Washington to help Restore Medicaid's FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage):

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Johnson County Supervisor Terrence Neuzil participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACO) 2010 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., to help ensure that the voice of the nation's counties is heard by Congress and the administration. The conference, held earlier this month, featured remarks from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and cabinet Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sibelius.

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Conference was to bring county officials face-to-face with federal government officials to discuss key county government priorities and specific legislation, regulations and funding levels affecting essential services and programs.

“One of my goals of the conference was to share with our Iowa delegation concerns about mental health funding and Medicaid's FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage),” said Neuzil. “Without Federal support for Medicaid reimbursement rates for Iowa, it means the potential of severe cuts at the local level.”

NACO believes that the intergovernmental partnership envisioned in the Medicaid statute should be restored and strengthened for FMAP. NACO also believes Medicaid reimbursement rates should be enhanced and increases to the Medicaid FMAP should be passed through to counties contributing to the non-federal share.

“Without federal and state appropriations, and with the state imposed cap on mental health funding in county government, we are likely looking at waiting lists for Johnson County residents in need of mental health services,” said Neuzil.

More than 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from around the country attended the event in Washington DC. Resolutions adopted at the conference are available at www.naco.org in the Issues section under Issues and Interest Areas.

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The National Association of Counties (NACO) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACO provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACO advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about

NACO, visit www.naco.org.