

Rationale for Amending Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) with the Medicaid EPSDT – Service Recipient Category Mandated enrollment of all children from birth through age 18:

1. EPSDT is a federal mandate upon the States and Health Insurance Companies enacted in 1989.
2. The Federal Government in the interest of its national security must invest in the health and development of its children.
3. The prevention of violence to children and adolescents dictates the availability and utilization of early intervention / prevention services by allied health care service providers.
4. Social Workers and Psychologists along with teachers are the front line professionals in the identification of individual children / adolescents who may be prone to committing violent acts. These may include mass shootings as an act of retaliation for past bullying or social isolation from their peers. Most of these youngsters can be initially identified during their junior high years.
5. Research has shown the cost effectiveness of early intervention services versus delayed action.
6. The availability of EPSDT Services is critical to both rural and urban areas nationally!
7. The availability of EPSDT Services would allow Juvenile Court Judges to utilize them as probation services accessing community-based prevention activities / services rather than detention centers.
8. The availability of EPSDT Services would relieve the local police agencies by providing an alternative to their use of heavy handed law enforcement actions. Youngsters would be directed to the EPSDT community services versus bringing them to the local jails or lockups.
9. The Federal commitment for the mandated implementation must be a 10 (ten) year project with funding as proposed. This projected time period is necessary as there is a shortage of professional disciplines to meet the projected demand for EPSDT Services.
10. The Federal projected funding is estimated to be \$10 – 15 billion per year. States and local communities would fund 20% of the EPSDT Service costs.
11. Addressing the needs of our children must be primarily the responsibility of each local community with adequate EPSDT Services and funding per this proposal. “It takes a neighborhood” to raise our children. Let’s help them!!!
12. Our States and local governments are primarily responsible for educating our children. Our Federal government has the responsibility to fund our children’s health care (EPSDT) services.

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Please go to TAMESHRS.com to read “A Proposal to Congress – Investment in Our Children” March 2017. This document provides additional background information and the endorsement by CMMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services).