

My number one goal in all of this has been to fund the Medicaid shortfall this year without cutting services and access to our children, our seniors and our disabled.

I'm pleased the House followed my lead in working to resolve the Medicaid shortfall. They asked me for a plan, and I presented one. They asked for specifics, and I offered specifics. It is good to see parts of that plan in this bill, and the electronic funds transfer proposal is still a strong and viable option.

The projects I've been calling for since last July to address health care needs, such as diabetes and disease management, are prominent in this legislation.

I still have concerns regarding our people's access to health care. The cuts to providers and prescription drugs, along with increases in co-payments for recipients, remain challenges for us to overcome.