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## For Immediate Release

# NEW MEDICAID CHANGES WILL HURT NY'S ELDERLY

**New York, NY – February 1, 2006** – The House of Representatives voted today to approve legislation that will impose punitive restrictions on any American who applies for federal Medicaid assistance to pay for nursing home expenses. Now cleared by Congress (the bill has already been approved in the Senate), President George Bush is expected to sign the Medicaid eligibility requirements into law as part of the larger Deficit Reduction Act.

The new Medicaid nursing home eligibility requirements will deny coverage to individuals who have made gifts to a family member or donated assets to charity within five years of their application for a Medicaid-funded nursing home stay. It will also make any individual with home equity above \$500,000 ineligible for Medicaid nursing home care. Medicaid is the federal healthcare program for low-income individuals, which also pays for millions of elderly Americans' nursing home coverage.

“It is now more important than ever for older generations who might need nursing home care to plan ahead for their future healthcare and financial needs,” commented Bernard A. Krooks, founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP and President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, New York Chapter. “The Baby Boomer generation will have to adjust their financial planning strategy if they want to protect future charitable opportunities. Under this law, older Americans will be penalized for providing their grandchildren with assistance for college or helping their children with a down-payment on a new home. Everything is fair game.”

Littman Krooks LLP ([www.elderlawnewyork.com](http://www.elderlawnewyork.com)) has been serving New York's senior population and those individuals with special needs for over 15 years.

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