

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Republican Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Grassley:

Our organizations wish to commend you for your hard work in developing a bipartisan approach to extending health coverage for America's uninsured children. We believe that health coverage for our nation's children deserves the cooperative spirit you have provided. Our diverse organizations share the goal of maximizing public enrollment in SCHIP under the current eligibility criteria, as well as expanding private health coverage for uninsured, lower-income children this year.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of SCHIP and related matters, we urge your colleagues to follow your bipartisan leadership so that lower-income, uninsured children can secure needed health coverage.

America's children constitute our nation's future. Uninsured children are not only unlikely to receive the preventative and primary care that they need, but they are also at risk of losing the educational and personal development opportunities needed to become productive citizens.

We, therefore, urge your colleagues to ensure that your bipartisan efforts succeed this year in making health coverage available for America's lower-income children.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
American Public Health Association  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
Ascension Health

Catholic Health Association  
Families USA  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Johnson & Johnson  
Pfizer