



# American Public Health Association

*Working for a Healthier World*

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September 25, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world, dedicated to protecting all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and assuring community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States, I write in strong support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

H.R. 976 would invest an additional \$35 billion over 5 years to provide health care coverage to nearly 10 million low-income children. The legislation will preserve health coverage for the nearly 6.6 million children currently covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and will provide the same coverage to millions of additional children over the next five years. We are also pleased that the bill will provide improved benefits to enrolled children including quality dental coverage, parity in mental health coverage and medically necessary benefits (EPSDT) for low-income children.

This bipartisan legislation is the product of intense negotiations by all parties involved. We thank you for your leadership on this important public health legislation and we join you in urging all members of the House and Senate to support this compromise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (Emeritus)  
Executive Director