

January 16, 2007

Dear President Bush,

The undersigned organizations are writing to request that your fiscal year 2008 budget fully continues our nation's commitment to children's health care. We ask that your budget provide sufficient funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is up for reauthorization in 2007, to ensure that states can both maintain and expand their children's health coverage. Failure to do so will directly threaten the health care of our nation's children and adolescents and impede states' ability to meet the growing need for health coverage for low-income children and their families.

Building on the success of Medicaid, the SCHIP program has made great strides in covering our nation's children—both programs are vital to improving children's health care and reducing the ranks of uninsured children. Together, Medicaid and SCHIP provide otherwise uninsured children and their families regular health exams, preventive screenings, and other essential health care services.

If federal funding for SCHIP is not significantly increased above the funding levels already assumed in the federal budget, states will be unable to sustain coverage for the children already enrolled in the program, let alone cover any more of the millions of uninsured children who are currently eligible for SCHIP. Your Administration's own actuaries have previously projected that as many as 1.5 million children could lose coverage between 2008 and 2012 without additional funding above existing levels.

We now call on your Administration to make covering America's children a top priority for 2007, and the most important first step is to include sufficient money in your fiscal year 2008 budget to fulfill this national commitment to our children. Maintaining and expanding children's coverage requires *new* federal money for SCHIP and should not be taken from Medicaid or other programs serving low-income populations.

Reauthorizing SCHIP will be one of the most important tasks before you in 2007. Together, SCHIP and Medicaid have significantly expanded children's health coverage and improved the health care low-income children receive. Reauthorization offers us the opportunity to strengthen and build on the success of these important health coverage programs.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Academy of General Dentistry

AFL-CIO

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for Children and Families

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Counseling Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Maternal and Child Health
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Catholic Health Association
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's Health Fund
Children's Partnership
Child Welfare League of America
Community Catalyst
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project
Consumers Union
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals
Disabled Action Committee
Easter Seals
Eating Disorders Coalition
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Eyes Wide Open International
Families USA
Family Voices
First Focus
Generations United
Health and Disability Advocates
Herndon Alliance
Institute for Reproductive Health Access
International Union, United Auto Workers
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
March of Dimes
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mental Health America

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
National Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Immigration Law Center
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Physicians Alliance
National Respite Coalition
National Student Nurses Association
National Women's Law Center
Parents Action for Children
Premier, Inc.
Presbyterian Church (USA)
RESULTS
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union
Sojourners/Call to Renewal
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
Tenants and Workers United
The Arc of the United States
The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
Tourette Syndrome Association
Union for Reform Judaism
United Cerebral Palsy
United Neighborhood Centers of America
United Steelworkers
United Way of America
USAction
Voices for America's Children
Voice of the Retarded
Women of Reform Judaism

Alabama

Alabama Association of School Nurses

Alaska

RESULTS-Anchorage

Arizona

Arizona Cancer Center
Arizona Center for Disability Law
Community Health Management Services, Inc.
Parenting Arizona
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
University Medical Center

Arkansas

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

California

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless program
Alameda Health Consortium
Asian and Pacific American Legal Center
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California State Association of Counties
Clinician-Scientists for the Public's Weal
County Welfare Directors Association of California
CSEA Retiree Council 5030
Diocese of San Bernardino
North Coast Clinics Network
RESULTS- Los Angeles
Solano Coalition for Better Health/SKIP
Tarzana Treatment Centers
Thai Health And Information Services, Inc.

Colorado

RESULTS Aurora

Connecticut

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
CT Call To Action
National Council of Jewish Women, Connecticut
Optimus Health Care Inc.

Delaware

Delaware Alliance for Health Care
Delaware Occupational Therapy Association

District of Columbia

DC Primary Care Organization
National Association of County Human Services Administrators

Florida

American Academy of Pediatrics, Florida Chapter
Florida CHAIN
Florida Child Health Care Coalition
Florida Legal Services
RESULTS- Miami
United Way of Miami-Dade

Georgia

The Georgia Occupational Therapy Association

Idaho

Idaho Community Action Network

Illinois

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Illinois Occupational Therapy Association
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Protestants for the Common Good

Indiana

Eye Care Community Outreach
New Hope Services, Inc.

Iowa

Child and Family Policy Center
Every Child Counts
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Occupational Therapy Association
Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa
RESULTS Des Moines
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa
Southeastern Renal Dialysis
State Public Policy Group, Inc.

Kansas

Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Medical Service Bureau
USD# 363

Kentucky

Dare to Care/Dismas Charities St Ann Kids' Cafe
National Council of Jewish Women, Kentucky Chapter
Office of KY Legal Services Programs
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Ursuline Sisters Social Concerns Committee

Louisiana

Teche Action Clinic

Maine

Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Equal Justice Partners

Maryland

Baltimore City Healthy Start
Charles County Freedom Landing Inc.
Coalition for Healthy Maryland Children
Medicaid Matters! Maryland
Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association
Montgomery Health Care ACTION
The Coordinating Center

Massachusetts

Health Care For All
MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts School Nurse Organization
Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.
Stavros Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Michigan

Center for Civil Justice
McLaren Regional Medical Center
Michigan Occupational therapy association
MiOTA
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
National Association of Physically Handicapped
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section
Oakland County Welfare Rights

Minnesota

Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota State Public Affairs
School Nurse Organization of Minnesota

Mississippi

MS Human Services Coalition

Missouri

Citizens for Missouri's Children

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri

Missouri Budget Project

MO MC+/SCHIP Statewide Coalition

Southside Welfare Rights Organization

Montana

Family Support Network

Montana Association of School Nurses

Montana People's Action

North Central Area Agency on Aging

Working for Equality and Economic Liberation

Nebraska

Building Strong Families Foundation

Center for People In Need

National School Nurses Association of Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association

Nevada

Great Basin Primary Care Association

Nevada Public Health Foundation

New Hampshire

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

PrioritiesNH

New Jersey

Community Health Law Project

New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association

RESULTS - NJ Delaware Valley Group

New Mexico

Health Action New Mexico

New Mexico Public Health Association

New Mexico Voices for Children

RESULTS Albuquerque

RESULTS Santa Fe

New York

American Indian Community House
Children's Aid Society

Citizen Action of New York
Community Healthcare Network
Empire Justice Center
Five Towns Community Chest
Health & Welfare Council of Long Island
Health Care Advocacy
Long Island Council of Churches
Long Island Health Access Monitoring Project
New York State Association of School Nurses
Ossining School Nurses
RESULTS- Buffalo
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Social Justice Center
The Partnership for the Homeless
TLC Health Network
Women's City Club of New York

North Carolina

Action for Children North Carolina
Arc of Beaufort County
Area Wide Health Committee
Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association
Child Abuse Prevention Team/Our House
Concerned Citizens of Hillary
John Rex Endowment
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
Mental Health Association in ND
North Carolina Committee to Defend Health Care
North Carolina Fair Share
School Nurse Association of North Carolina
Western Region School Nurse Association of North Carolina

North Dakota

Mental Health Association in North Dakota

Ohio

Ohio Disability Action Coalition
Ohio Job & Family Services Directors' Association
Project H.O.P.E.
RESULTS Columbus
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

Oklahoma

Ability Resources
Community Action Project of Tulsa Co.
National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter
Osteopathic Founders Foundation
St John Medical Center
Tulsa RESULTS Group

Oregon

National Council of Jewish Women, Oregon State Public Affairs
Oregon Health Action Campaign

Pennsylvania

Action Alliance of Senior Citizens
Carlisle Area School District
Consumer Health Coalition
Maternity Care Coalition
Mon Valley Unemployed Committee
National Council of Jewish Women--PA Public Affairs
Neighborhood Interfaith Movement
Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA)
Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association (POTA)
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth
Philadelphia Committee To Defend Healthcare

Rhode Island

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
National Council of Jewish Women, Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Occupational Therapy Association

South Carolina

Family Connection of South Carolina, Inc.
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Fair Share
South Carolina Hospital Association

South Dakota

Avera Health

Tennessee

Cumberland Counties for Peace & Justice
NAMITN
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
TN Conference on Social Welfare

Texas

Brownsville Community Health Center
Catholic Charities of Central Texas
Covenant Health System
Dallas Air America Groups
East Texas Health Access Network
La Fe Policy and Advocacy Center
Mental Health America in Texas (formerly Mental Health Association in Texas)
National Council of Jewish Women Texas State Public Affairs
RESULTS Domestic Houston
Texas Autism Scholarships

Utah

Utah Health Policy Project
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont

Brain Injury Association of Vermont
Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights
Vermont Occupational Therapy Association

Virginia

Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc
American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Chapter
Bon Secours Richmond Health System
Central Virginia Health Planning Agency
Charlottesville RESULTS
Child health Investment Partnership
Children's Hospital - Richmond
CHIP of Virginia
FAMIS Outreach Project
National Association of Social Workers-Virginia
National Council of Jewish Women
New River Community Action, Inc.
Radford University Family Health Clinics
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
Roanoke County Public Schools
SIDS Mid Atlantic
SMART-One, Inc.
Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center
Tenants and Workers United
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
Virginia Health Care Foundation
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Virginia Primary Care Association

Virginia Rural Health Association
Voices for Virginia's Children

Virgin Islands

St. Thomas East End Lions Club

Washington

American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington Chapter
Children's Alliance
Fremont Public Association
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Center
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, WA Chapter
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Planned Parenthood Network of Washington
Pierce County ALTC/SHIBA
Sea Mar Community Health Center
Seattle RESULTS
Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers
Washington Community Action Network
Washington Occupational Therapy Association
Working for Health Coalition

West Virginia

Clay County Health Dept.
Goodwill Industries of Kanwha Valley
Graduate Social Work Organization of West Virginia University
Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center
KRM Social Services
National Association of Social Workers - WV Chapter
Oasis Behavioral Health Services
Pear Tree Counseling
Roane Cancer Coalition
West Virginia Association of Free Clinics
West Virginia Association of School Nurses
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
WomenCare, Inc. DBA FamilyCare

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wisconsin Counties Association

Wyoming

Wyoming School Nurses Association