

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

July 26, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room 2322A Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton:

I am writing to communicate my strong support for H.R. 3162, The Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007, which reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). It is critically important that this program be reauthorized prior to September 30, 2007 in order to preserve health insurance coverage for the more than six million children who are currently enrolled, including over 100,000 in Maryland.

It is vital that the financing mechanism for the program be constructed in such a way that will prevent shortfalls and reduce the need for funding re-allocations. By basing future allotments on spending estimates that use 2007 data and re-calibrating State allotments every two years, the bill your committee now considers will provide a stable, predictable funding source and allow States to plan their budgets in a more accurate fashion.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Children's Health Insurance Program is reauthorized before September 30.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley", written over a white background.

Martin O'Malley

cc: The Maryland Congressional Delegation

