



August 7, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

On behalf of more than 21,000 members the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) representing academic dentistry, we thank you for acting expeditiously to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and for providing states with the necessary financial support to improve the availability of dental services for children. You recognize that pediatric oral health is a priority health issue that requires that disparities in access to care be ameliorated.

We applaud your efforts to improve access and delivery of oral health care for all children. We are particularly pleased with the guaranteed dental benefit which establishes dental services necessary to prevent disease and promote oral health, restore oral structures to health and function, and treat emergency conditions.

The CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162, is a significant first step in improving oral health for our nation's children. Dental care is a fundamental and necessary health care service. Early and preventative treatment is cost effective, especially among low-income children. The CHAMP Act will further build on the success of SCHIP in decreasing the number of uninsured children and will improve access to oral health care.

We **pledge to continue** working with you and your colleagues to improve efficiencies in SCHIP and Medicaid and strengthening our health care system by assuring regular access to routine and preventive oral health care.

We thank you for your commitment to improving oral health and ensuring passage of SCHIP reauthorization.

Sincerely,

Marc Heft, D.M.D., P.h.D.
President
American Association for Dental Research

James Q. Swift, D.D.S.
President
American Dental Education Association