

## **CHAMP ACT REDUCES MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES**

Racial and ethnic disparities affect access to care and coverage, which results in disproportionately poor health outcomes for minorities. We know that SCHIP dramatically decreased the number of uninsured minority children. The CHAMP Act builds on this success by taking important steps forward to reduce health disparities, leveling the playing field for children and seniors from all backgrounds. The CHAMP Act would:

- Allow States the option to cover legal immigrant children and pregnant women.
- Expand the list of acceptable documentation for Native Americans.
- Alleviate burdensome paperwork and documentation requirements that have blocked millions of minority citizen children from coverage.
- Direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a pediatric health quality program that will include measures that examine racial and ethnic disparities in health care.
- Establish a Congressional commission, the Children's Access, Payment and Equity Commission (CAPE), to evaluate access to care among minorities and make recommendations to Congress for improvement.
- Enhance funding for language interpretation and translation services for enrollment and re-enrollment to eliminate cultural or ethnic barriers to coverage.
- Require the Government Accountability Office to develop a model enrollment process to facilitate coverage for children of migrant workers.
- Ensure access to Federally qualified health clinic (FQHC) and rural health clinic (RHC) services for minority children. These services would be required as part of the benefits package. Two-thirds of health center patients are racial and ethnic minorities.
- Increase Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.
- Provide additional Federal funding for investment in data reporting systems.