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CONSUMER REPORTS

March 12, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consumers Union, the independent, non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, strongly endorses the bill you and Senator Clinton are introducing to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program to cover America's uninsured children.

Your proposal, the "Children's Health First Act," would at long last end the national disgrace of nine million children—a population equal to the whole City of New York—without health insurance. The data is indisputable: children in families without health insurance suffer unnecessary deaths, more frequent and more severe illnesses, and reduced education and lifetime earnings potentials.

By helping the States reach and enroll six million children who currently qualify for Medicaid and SCHIP, by expanding coverage to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level, and by encouraging employers to maintain family coverage, your bill is a dramatic improvement that will pay off in a healthier, more prosperous nation.

Congratulations again on this initiative, and we look forward to working with you on its enactment in the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

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Senior Policy Analyst

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