

March 12, 2007

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton and Representative Dingell:

On behalf of Families USA, the voice of health care consumers, I am writing to commend you on the introduction of the Children's Health First Act and to express our support for the bill. As there are 9 million children who are uninsured-and over two-thirds of those children are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP but aren't enrolled-Congress must make covering kids a national priority. The Children's Health First Act elevates kids coverage to the top of the agenda, and it provides a solution to get, and keep, all children covered.

Providing health care for children is a smart investment. Children who receive necessary care are more likely to grow up healthy and become productive adults. The Children's Health First Act provides affordable health care options for all families and employers to cover their children. The bill goes even further, granting flexibility to states to allow them to determine how best to address their uninsured populations.

Giving states the incentives and resources to expand existing state coverage to children in families with incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level is a critical step towards covering the millions of uninsured children in this country. The Children's Health First Act would also give states the tools and resources to find and enroll the 6 million children who qualify for health coverage today, but are not enrolled. Finally, it would provide incentives to continue and strengthen the employer-sponsored coverage that more than half of all children enjoy today.

Thank you for your dedication to the health care of our nation's children. We look forward to working under your leadership to enact this bill into law.

Sincerely,

Ron Pollack
Executive Director