

ACP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

July 24, 2007

Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building - Room 2125
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Dingell:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians, representing 124,000 internal medicine physicians and medical student members, I am writing to express our support for the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP Act) of 2007. The College is the largest medical specialty society in the United States. The CHAMP Act will strengthen and expand access to care for children and seniors by:

- **Providing funding to assure continued and expanded coverage for millions of children from lower-income families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).**
- **Protecting access to Medicare by funding positive physician payment updates in 2008 and 2009 instead of allowing devastating cuts to go into effect.** The bill also seeks to improve physician spending targets by eliminating drugs from the targets, ensuring the new coverage decisions are incorporated, and supporting the value of primary and preventive services. We note that further legislation will be needed to avert payment cuts in 2010 and subsequent years and to develop an effective method for future updates.
- **Creating the building blocks for Medicare reforms to improve quality.** The College is particularly pleased that the bill will **create incentives for care coordination by a patient's personal physician through a large scale demonstration of the Patient-Centered Medical Home.** We also strongly support provisions to fund research on the comparative effectiveness of different treatments, to create a process for identifying procedures that may be incorrectly valued, to improve geographic equity in payments, and to provide physicians with confidential data on their practice patterns.
- **Helping to reduce smoking rates while provide funding for SCHIP and Medicare by increasing federal taxes on tobacco products.**
- **Reducing costly and unfair overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans and applying these savings to ensuring health care access to children and seniors.**

The College commends you for sponsoring the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act and we pledge to work for its enactment.

Sincerely,



David C. Dale, MD, FACP
President