



REAL Kids, Stories

*Share your health care story and
make a difference!*

Campaign for Children's Health Care
Story Bank

What is the Campaign for Children's Health Care?

The Campaign for Children's Health Care is dedicated to making high quality, affordable health insurance coverage for all of America's children a top national priority. We are a diverse group of organizations who represent health care providers, educators, parents, advocates, and others, all of whom share a commitment to our nation's children. The Campaign coordinates public education efforts across the country to demonstrate the importance of health insurance for children and families, and to show why national action is needed to expand coverage for children.

More than nine million children lack health insurance in the United States, the wealthiest nation in the world. Investing in children's health returns innumerable benefits, including improved development and health outcomes for children, improved school performance, and long-term savings in health care costs. We believe it is time for our leaders to take action.

What is the Story Bank?

The Campaign for Children's Health Care story bank is a growing database of stories from people all across the country. It contains contact information and relevant details of American families who wish to share their health care story. The stories are collected under strict confidentiality. Details and contact information are shared only with the permission of the individual and then only with reporters, congressional staff, and Administration officials who agree to respect the privacy and limits each individual imposes. ***At no time is anyone ever obligated to speak to a reporter if he or she chooses not to.***

Why does the Campaign for Children's Health Care collect stories?

We collect stories to help put a human face on America's uninsured children. Too often, health care becomes an oversimplified matter of dollars and cents (or billions of dollars and cents), and the real people who are affected are forgotten.

We share our stories with reporters, congressional staff, and Administration officials for use in news stories, testimony before Congress, and press events that highlight specific problems. Everyone in our story bank is eager to share their stories under these circumstances because they feel that exposing the problem increases awareness and hopefully, helps bring a solution.

How does the Story Bank work?

The Campaign for Children's Health Care finds out about particular stories in a variety of ways:

- You can call the Campaign for Children's Health Care in Washington, DC, 1-800-593-5041 ext. 3621. People call us directly to ask for advice or assistance with a problem they are having with their health care.
- You can e-mail storybank@childrenshealthcampaign.org or visit www.childrenshealthcampaign/tell-us-your-story.html to submit your story on the web.
- State and local advocates: Advocates working at the local level often hear stories of people who have had problems with their health care. After clearing it with the person affected, the advocates pass consumers' contact information on to us to conduct an interview.

How are the stories used?

Every day, the Campaign for Children's Health Care gets requests from reporters who are working on health care stories and need real people to interview. Real people not only help to put a face on the issue, they also help explain complex issues in a much simpler way. If we find someone in our story bank that matches a request from a reporter, we call the person and ask if he or she is still willing to speak to a reporter about his or her health care story. If the person is willing, we then pass along their contact information to the reporter.

The Campaign for Children's Health Care only works with respected news establishments. Nonetheless, participants should be aware that if a reporter asks a question that they prefer not to answer, they have every right to refuse to answer that question. If that means that the interview is terminated, so be it. People should always feel comfortable with the reporter and the questions they ask. The Campaign for Children's Health Care would never force anyone to be interviewed. We fully understand that participants are volunteering their time and sacrificing a little bit of their privacy to help educate people about a particular health care issue.

How can I submit a story?

We hope this pamphlet has answered some of your questions about the Campaign for Children's Health Care story bank. If you are interested in participating in the story bank, or work with consumers who may be interested in sharing their story please fill out the form on the back or photocopy the form for health care consumers in your area. If you have any other questions e-mail storybank@childrenshealthcampaign.org or contact Aman Gohal, Communications Associate at 1-800-593-5041 ext. 3621.

Tell Us Your Story

The Campaign for Children's Health Care Consumer Story Bank

The Campaign for Children's Health Care is building a database that documents health care hardship stories of children and their families. Stories about the experiences of people help make difficult and often complex policy issues understandable to a broader group. Reporters and policymakers find the stories useful to better illustrate the everyday struggles that Americans face concerning their health care. We obtain permission from each consumer before releasing his/her story.

If you would like to share your story, please do so below. Your story can make a difference.

Your Information:

Title (please circle one) Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss., Dr.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Birth _____ Annual Income _____

Race/Ethnicity (please circle one)

Caucasian African American Hispanic/Latino Asian/Pacific Islander Native American

Other (please specify) _____

Best Time to Reach You:

Your Story (use additional paper if necessary):

Please mail or fax to Campaign for Children's Health Care,
Attention: Aman Gohal, Communications Associate
PO Box 34143
Washington D.C. 20043
Fax : 202-347-2417

You can also submit stories online at
www.childrenshealthcampaign.org/tell-us-your-story.html
or e-mail your story to storybank@childrenshealthcampaign.org