



July 24, 2006

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, DC 20510

cc: Members of the Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Rockefeller:

Over the past 10 years, Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) have greatly reduced the percent of children without health coverage. Yet nearly one in eight children in the United States remains uninsured. Your committee has an important role in tackling this urgent problem and we wish to commend you for convening a very important hearing on "CHIP at 10: A Decade of Covering Children."

The great majority of the more than 9 million uninsured children live in working families (78 percent). Many more millions have inadequate insurance. Health care is absolutely critical for children's ability to perform well at school, lead healthy active lives, and become productive citizens. In addition, investing in children's health generates long-term savings in health care costs.

The Campaign for Children's Health Care is a new initiative designed to make health coverage for every child a national priority. The Campaign is led by a diverse group of national organizations that will seek to inform the public about the urgency of expanding health coverage to every child.

Over the next year, the Campaign has planned numerous activities across the country, including satellite town hall meetings, a national essay contest for school children about the importance of health coverage, the release of a series of policy reports, a Washington lobby day, and an online petition urging coverage for all children. Through these activities you will be hearing from your constituents that children's health care coverage is important to them.

We congratulate you for your outstanding leadership on children's health. We look forward to working with you to strengthen and protect Medicaid and to move forward the reauthorization of CHIP next year. The Campaign will work tirelessly with your committee to ensure that comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health coverage is available to all children.

Sincerely,

The Campaign for Children's Health Care

PO Box 34143 • Washington, DC 20043 • Phone: 202-879-0299

E-mail: info@childrenshealthcampaign.org

www.childrenshealthcampaign.org