

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 10, 2001

***Co-Sponsor the FamilyCare Act of 2001***  
***An Immediate Solution for the Uninsured***

Dear Democratic Colleague:

More than 44 million Americans lack health insurance coverage. These Americans are predominantly workers and their families, and right now these families have no place to turn for help. They often work for employers who do not offer coverage, or they are ineligible for coverage, or in some cases, they simply can't afford to participate. And, in more than two-thirds of states, a parent working full time at minimum wage does not qualify for health insurance through Medicaid.

This is a serious problem that is only getting worse. The Budget Resolution agreed to in conference included \$28 billion dollars that can be used for expansions of public programs. Therefore, we are offering a timely proposal that builds on the successes of state-federal partnerships to reduce the number of uninsured.

Next week, we will introduce the **FamilyCare Act of 2001**, a bill that creates a number of options and new flexibility for states to provide health insurance coverage to American families through existing programs.

**The FamilyCare Act of 2001:**

- provides new federal funding, incentives, and authority for states to expand health insurance to parents of children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- allows states to extend Medicaid and CHIP coverage to: children up to age 21, legal immigrant children and pregnant women, and first-time pregnant women;
- facilitates the transition from welfare to work by guaranteeing health insurance for up to one year;
- assists states in increasing enrollment of children who are currently eligible for health insurance by providing new options for outreach, presumptive eligibility, streamlining enrollment procedures, and coordinating services;

- simplifies the application process for CHIP and Medicaid; and
- provides grants for states to develop innovative health insurance coverage options for the uninsured.

We invite you to join us in cosponsoring the **FamilyCare Act of 2001**. This legislation represents an important step forward in providing health insurance coverage to uninsured, working Americans. To be a cosponsor, or for further information, please have your staff call Bridgett Taylor or Amy Droskoski, Committee on Energy and Commerce Minority Staff, at ext. 6-3400.

Sincerely,



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JOHN D. DINGELL



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PETE STARK