



September 24, 2007

Dear Representative:

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), representing 178,000 educators from all roles within the profession, strongly urges you to support the **Conference Report** reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) when it comes before you this week.

The SCHIP program has provided critical health benefits to many children. Unfortunately, like many programs, it is a victim of its own success. Presently, many more children need the critical services offered by this program but do not have the access or the opportunity to receive these services. While we believe a good deal more work is needed to cover the 9 million children who are currently uninsured, we recognize this legislation as a welcome step toward that eventual goal.

This legislation has the potential to reduce the number of uninsured children by an estimated 3.2–4 million children. We remain concerned that roughly 5 million more children will not be covered. We are hopeful the provisions encouraging states to cover neediest children first, including new outreach activities that incorporate localities and community-based organizations, will be successful.

Central to the mission of ASCD is the education of the whole child. Children's health is an essential part of this equation. As educators, we know firsthand how vital health is to children's academic performance. Children who are healthy perform better in school and require less remediation. An investment in children's health is both right and cost-effective.

We urge you to support this legislation to provide the health insurance coverage that low-income children so desperately need. All children deserve access to critical, preventative, and necessary health services. Should you have any questions, please contact Dan Fuller, ASCD's Director of Public Policy, at 703-575-5621. Thank you for your consideration.

With warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene R. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Gene R. Carter
Executive Director and CEO