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October 15, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

On behalf of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), I am writing to express my appreciation for your bipartisan efforts in passing the State Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization legislation. NAPNAP is the professional association for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs) and other Advanced Practice Nurses who care for children. Reauthorization of the SCHIP program is our members' top legislative priority and we strongly believe its passage is in the best interest of our nation's children. Each day, PNPs across the country are faced with the challenge of providing basic health care to children without health insurance. This challenge becomes more intense when an uninsured child needs to be hospitalized for a condition that could have been prevented.

Since 1997, SCHIP has contributed to a one-third decline in the uninsured rate of low-income children. Today, over six million children benefit from this effective health care program. As health care providers caring for children, we strongly support the Congressional investment of \$35 billion in SCHIP funding for children's health care.

SCHIP has enjoyed ten years of strong bipartisan support. Thank you for your leadership in helping to provide a meaningful preventative and total benefit package for children – including mental and dental health, while maintaining most of the state flexibility needed to allow states to provide children with the best care.

NAPNAP believes that SCHIP reauthorization is the most important issue for children that Congress will consider in the 110th Congress. Please let me know if there is anything NAPNAP can do to assist with your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Jaramillo de Montoya". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carolyn Jaramillo de Montoya MSN, CPNP
President