



WASHINGTON OFFICE
NATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

October 3, 2007

Dear Member of Congress,

I write on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to express our deepest conviction that children are a gift from God, a blessing held in sacred trust whose protection and well-being are integrally related to God's call for a faithful community. Thank you for Congress' strong leadership on the reauthorization and expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

It is with dismay that I watched the news about the President's veto of a bill that will ensure health care coverage for 10 million children in this country. In a 2002 statement, the 214th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) "urge[d] adequate funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) so that health-care coverage will be available for all children" and "the expansion of CHIP legislation to include the parents or caregivers of children covered under its provisions."

We believe that this CHIP reauthorization bill takes a very important first step toward achieving health care for all, and **I urge you to stand firm on your vote for CHIP and to vote to override the President's veto.**

For more information, please contact Leslie Woods, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Associate for Domestic Poverty and Environmental Issues at leslie.woods@pcusa.org.

With prayers and thanksgiving for your work and service,

The Reverend Elenora Giddings Ivory
Director, Presbyterian Washington Office