

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098  
Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 847/434-8000  
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org  
www.aap.org

## Reply to

### Department of Federal Affairs

Homer Building, Suite 400 N  
601 13th St NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202/347-8600  
Fax: 202/393-6137  
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

## Executive Committee

### President

Eileen M. Ouellette, MD, JD, FAAP

### President-Elect

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP

### Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

## Board of Directors

### District I

Edward N. Bailey, MD, FAAP  
Salem, MA

### District II

Henry A. Schaeffer, MD, FAAP  
Brooklyn, NY

### District III

Sandra Gibson Hassink, MD, FAAP  
Wilmington, DE

### District IV

David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP  
Goldsboro, NC

### District V

Ellen Buerk, MD, MEd, FAAP  
Oxford, OH

### District VI

Kathryn Piziali Nichol, MD, FAAP  
Madison, WI

### District VII

Gary Q. Peck, MD, FAAP  
New Orleans, LA

### District VIII

Mary P. Brown, MD, FAAP  
Bend, OR

### District IX

Burton F. Willis, MD, FAAP  
Huntington Beach, CA

### District X

John S. Curran, MD, FAAP  
Tampa, FL

## Immediate Past President

Carol D. Berkowitz, MD, FAAP

September 25, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

On behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I write today to thank you for the hard work that you have undertaken to draft a substantive Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reauthorization. Pediatricians stand with you on this important legislation and will work tirelessly towards its passage.

Your proposal achieves many of the goals of the Academy. The commitment of \$35 billion to reaching eligible children is laudable. Far from an expansion of the programs, your measure focuses on reaching children who are, on paper, eligible for coverage under Medicaid or CHIP. Your compromise legislation underscores that without funding, a child is not really eligible for coverage.

Numerous other components of the bill also will be a great help to children, including your attempts to address the citizenship and identification documentation issue, clarifying that EPSDT is still a requirement under benchmark plans approved under Deficit Reduction Act rules, and the inclusion of a robust and substantive new effort to strengthen pediatric quality measurement.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staffs as the bill moves through the process. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally if there is any further way that I can be of help in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP  
President