



September 25, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for CHIP Conference Agreement

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of ACCSES, **I write to state our strong support for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007.** ACCSES is a national organization of disability service providers with the mission of promoting and enhancing community-based solutions that maximize employment and independent living opportunities for people with disabilities.

We believe the compromise CHIP legislation represents an important opportunity to ensure access to healthcare coverage to millions of children from low- and moderate-income families, including many children with disabilities.

Additionally, **we strongly support Section 616 of the legislation, which would impose a moratorium on new restrictions to Medicaid's rehabilitative services benefit.** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that would severely restrict access to community rehabilitation services for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse issues. Section 616 of the CHIP legislation would prevent promulgation of the final regulation through May 28, 2008 in order to give Members of Congress additional time evaluate this NPRM and conduct the necessary oversight with regard to this harmful policy proposal.

In conclusion, we thank your for your efforts to address access to healthcare and rehabilitative services for children and people with disabilities and strongly support passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Sincerely,

John D. Kemp
CEO