



September 24, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to express our strong support for the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2007 and to urge you to vote for it.

Under this bill, four million more children will gain health coverage, giving them an opportunity to be healthy and thrive. This compares with the President's proposal to increase funding by \$5 billion over five years, causing hundreds of thousands to lose coverage.

The Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act is focused on covering low-income children who are already eligible but unenrolled, primarily due to insufficient funding. The vast majority of the newly covered children are in families with incomes that fall below current state guidelines.

The bill effectively targets uninsured children. According to the Congressional Budget Office, two-thirds of those who would gain coverage under this bill would otherwise be uninsured. This is much more efficient than the Administration's 2006 proposal to provide tax breaks to expand coverage. Less than 25 percent of those tax breaks would go to those who are uninsured.

The need to cover more children is based on recent trends in coverage. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 700,000 children lost coverage between 2005 and 2006. To reverse this trend and significantly reduce the number of uninsured children, we urge you to vote for the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles M. Loveless', is written over a white background.

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Legislation

CML:bcm