



September 25, 2007

Dear Representative,

On behalf of ANCOR's 850 private providers of supports to more than 380,000 children and adults with disabilities, **I urge you to vote in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (HR 976).**

The reauthorization bill before you represents a bipartisan, bicameral compromise that will 1) ensure that SCHIP funding will continue after September 30, 2007; 2) continues SCHIP health care to all children currently covered by states; reflects a fiscally-responsible approach to the challenge of health care coverage to our nation's 9 million low- and moderate-income uninsured children; 3) is paid for with revenue offsets; 4) provides health care coverage through the private market; 5) provides needed funding to help reach nearly 4 million additionally uninsured children; and 5) provides much needed, specific protections for thousands of children and adults with disabilities.

This bipartisan compromise includes key provisions (Section 616) especially important to ANCOR's private providers of Medicaid supports and services to people with significant developmental disabilities and mental illness. It imposes a needed moratorium on ill-advised restrictions proposed on Medicaid rehabilitation and clinical state options services that would eliminate current community provided habilitation services. The approach embodied in the proposed rule was previously rejected by the Congress in its deliberations before passing the Deficit Reduction Act. Eliminating the currently federally-approved means of providing habilitation services and restricting the effective ways states can provide these supports does not help the nation provide cost-saving, quality long-term supports in the community—nor does it provide states with the flexibility they need to design and finance their individual Medicaid state plans. The legislation would also stop the implementation of a rule that would restrict Medicaid services currently provided to children in school settings. Children and adults with severe disabilities, their families, their providers, and states have been asking who can they turn to for help? Congress is affirmatively answering their question with this provision. This moratorium gives the Congress the opportunity to grapple with numerous complex policy issues and avoid ill-considered policy changes.

ANCOR applauds Congressional courage to seek a compromise to make sure that millions of children continue to have basic health care coverage and efforts to expand health insurance coverage to low- and moderate-income children. ANCOR strongly urges you to support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of University Centers on Disabilities
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Disability Rights Network
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy

Sincerely,
Suellen R. Galbraith
Director for Government Relations