



American Public Health Association

Working for a Healthier World

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September 25, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world, dedicated to protecting all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and assuring community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States, I write in strong support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

H.R. 976 would invest an additional \$35 billion over 5 years to provide health care coverage to nearly 10 million low-income children. The legislation will preserve health coverage for the nearly 6.6 million children currently covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and will provide the same coverage to millions of additional children over the next five years. We are also pleased that the bill will provide improved benefits to enrolled children including quality dental coverage, parity in mental health coverage and medically necessary benefits (EPSDT) for low-income children.

This bipartisan legislation is the product of intense negotiations by all parties involved. We thank you for your leadership on this important public health legislation and we urge all members of the House and Senate to support this compromise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (Emeritus)
Executive Director