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September 25, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell,

The Children's Dental Health Project applauds your commitment to the oral health of all children. We recognize and commend your leadership in providing stable dental care for children in working-poor families, supporting early visits to the dentist, enhancing the quality dental care, and improving access.

As our youngest children are experiencing an increase in cavities for the first time in 40 years, we especially appreciate the comprehensiveness of your approach to improving dental care in CHIP. You clearly appreciate that it is essential to provide routine preventive dental care for the most vulnerable children – care that has proven to be cost effective, particularly for previously uninsured children. Stabilizing the provision of dental care will have a positive effect on children's oral health and therefore on their overall health and well-being.

We appreciate that the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (HR 976) also expands access through public private contracting, educating new parents about oral health, and establishing systems for monitoring the quality and performance of state dental benefits, which are all significant strides toward oral health for all children. Providing states the opportunity to address the prevention of disease, the development of the dental safety-net, and financing of dental care are all important areas that have been in need of attention to improve access and quality of dental care.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the oral health of our nation's children. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your excellent staff on these critical health issues.

Sincerely,

Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH
Chairman
Children's Dental Health Project

Give
Us A
Helping
Hand

