



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

September 25, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

The bipartisan State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization compromise provides Michigan and every state a genuine opportunity to provide more children with access to quality health care. I urge you to support immediate passage of this legislation and to resist any effort by President Bush to block it from becoming law.

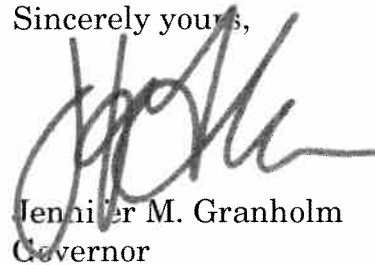
Governors from both political parties, including myself, have called for enactment of a strong bipartisan reauthorization. This compromise provides necessary increases in funding for states to continue covering millions of currently insured individuals and allow states to address the problem of the growing number of uninsured children. In Michigan, we are proud to have one of the lowest uninsured rates for children in the nation, but we still have kids who are uninsured. In my opinion, one Michigan child without health insurance is one too many.

A strong, timely and complete SCHIP reauthorization is vital to Michigan in this time of tremendous economic transition. A child who does not have access to health care is less likely to receive any medical treatment. If a child is sick, they cannot attend school, which hampers their ability to gain the skills necessary to excel as they prepare to enter the workforce. While we have worked at the state level to provide our children every opportunity to succeed in a global economy, uninsured children are at a competitive disadvantage. It is our duty to ensure that Michigan children are given every opportunity to succeed and this compromise is one step toward meeting that goal.

Without united support from our Congressional Delegation, this opportunity to provide more kids with needed care could be lost. It is critical that this compromise become law as soon as possible or Michigan children will continue to go without insurance and could be denied the tools they need to succeed in a global economy.

While there are some components of the compromise I would like to have seen altered, it represents a common-sense bipartisan approach that will give Michigan new tools to continue making progress providing quality health care for Michigan children. I am encouraged that congressional leaders from both parties prioritized health insurance coverage in the final days of this fiscal year, and hope Michigan's Congressional Delegation will join the strong bipartisan consensus this compromise represents.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Granholm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor