



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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July 31, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Chairman, Health Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stark
Committee on Ways and Means
Chairman, Health Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Dingell, Rangel, Pallone, and Stark:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) in strong support of The Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act. This legislation is important in addressing the health care needs of one of our nation's most vulnerable populations — children.

NAPH represents more than 100 safety net hospitals and health systems nationwide. NAPH member hospitals and health systems are on the frontlines of providing care to millions of uninsured and underinsured children and families every day. Medicaid and SCHIP are the cornerstones of our nation's health care safety net, helping to ensure access to care for millions and to finance their care in public hospitals and community health centers.

The CHAMP Act is an important investment in the State Children's Health Insurance Program by supporting the more than 6 million low income children currently receiving health care coverage through SCHIP. The restructuring of the state allotments, along with the increased funding amounts, will provide states with the ability to cover more children while preventing the shortfalls that have recently plagued the program. The Medicare provisions of the CHAMP Act will help strengthen the program for both beneficiaries and providers, including your efforts to stop the scheduled reduction in physician payments and placing limits on certain physician referrals to hospitals.

NAPH supports your plan to use an increase in the federal tobacco tax to fund the program's renewal. We also greatly appreciate your efforts to relieve some of the administrative burdens being imposed on states by the citizenship documentation requirements for Medicaid eligibility that were instituted as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Additionally, we applaud you for including provisions to extend optional coverage to pregnant women and to lawfully present legal immigrant children and pregnant women as well as providing states with tools and incentives for outreach and enrollment.

We want to reiterate our sincere appreciation for your efforts and support of the one-year moratorium on the Medicaid cost limit and graduate medical education rules and would like to continue to work with you to extend the current moratorium before the end of this year. NAPH also supports extending the 340B drug discount program to the inpatient setting.

NAPH thanks you for your ongoing leadership to ensure access to health care for our nation's poor and underserved and commends you and your staff for your tireless efforts to improve the SCHIP program. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry S. Gage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" being the most prominent part.

Larry S. Gage
President