



CDHP Board of Directors

Burton L. Edelstein, DDS MPH
Chair
Professor of Dentistry and
Health Policy & Management
Columbia University
New York, NY

Shelly Gehshan
Vice Chair
Senior Program Director
National Academy for State Health
Policy
Washington, DC

Jackie Noyes, MA
Secretary/Treasurer
Associate Executive Director
American Academy of Pediatrics
Washington, DC

Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS MPH
Associate Dean for Prevention
and Public Health Sciences
University of Illinois
College of Dentistry
Chicago, IL

Steven William Kess
Vice President
Henry Schein, Inc.
Melville, NY

Marion Ein Lewin
Chevy Chase, MD

Kathy O'Loughlin, DMD MPH MBA
President and CEO
Delta Dental Plan of
Massachusetts
Boston, MA

Fotinos S. Panagakos, DMD PhD
Director of Professional Relations
Colgate Palmolive
New York, NY

Ned Savide, DDS
Past President
American Academy of
Pediatric Dentistry
Palos Park, IL

Rakesh Singh
Senior Communications Officer
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
Washington DC

Claude Earl Fox, MD MPH
Emeritus
Research Professor, Epidemiology
and Public Health
University of Miami School of
Medicine
Miami, FL

Nancy Rawding Gralla MPH
Executive Director

CDHP is a Section 501(c)(3) organization.

All contributions to CDHP will be tax deductible
to the extent permitted by law.

March 30, 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 leadership in addressing the oral health needs of our nation's children by introducing the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007. Your bill strengthens the pediatric oral health safety net which is so vital to the overall health and well-being of children, especially children from low-income families.

We appreciate your acknowledgement of the facts: 1) tooth decay is preventable and 2) preventive dental care is cost effective. The Children's Dental Health Improvement Act recognizes these two facts by strengthening public insurance programs and providing state incentives to implement best practices when designing their oral health programs.

We are particularly supportive of your efforts to stabilize a dental benefit for SCHIP-eligible children by ensuring a robust federal dental benefit is guaranteed in SCHIP; giving states the option to provide dental wrap-around coverage for children with employer based medical insurance; and asking states to report their dental performance in SCHIP. Together, these measures will strengthen SCHIP and ensure that more children receive preventative dental care early in life. This is not only the right thing to do to prevent children from experiencing the pain and discomfort which affects their ability to eat, sleep and learn but also because it is fiscally smart. SCHIP coverage will help ensure that children receive appropriate preventative care that cost far less than care delivered in emergency rooms.

Thank you for your dedication to the health of our nation's children. We look forward to working with you to make certain our shared mission is accomplished.

Sincerely,

Burt Edelstein, DDS, MPH
Founding Director

Give
Us A
Helping
Hand

