

American Academy of Pediatrics



Department of Government Liaison

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May 5, 1998

The Honorable John Dingell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics and its 53,000 pediatrician, pediatric medical subspecialist, and pediatric surgical specialist members, I am writing to commend you, Rep. Gephardt, and your other cosponsors for the introduction of the Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1998. As experts in the care of children, we believe that this legislation makes important strides toward ensuring that children get the medical attention that they need and deserve.

Children are not little adults. Their care should be provided by specialists who are appropriately trained in the unique physical and developmental issues surrounding the care of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. We are particularly pleased that you recognize this and have included access to appropriate pediatric specialists, as well as other protections for children, as key provisions of your legislation. We would further recommend the inclusion of the full range of pediatric protections included in the "Children's Health Insurance Accountability Act of 1998" which was introduced by Sen. Jack Reed with the strong support of the Academy.

We look forward to working with you during the remainder of the 105th Congress to ensure that all of America's children have access to appropriate, high quality health care. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe M. Sanders Jr. MD".

Joe M. Sanders, Jr., MD, FAAP
Executive Director

CTA/cta

cc: Members, United States House of Representatives