

American Academy of Pediatrics



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July 25, 2000

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the 55,000 members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing to express the Academy's strong support of the FamilyCare Act of 2000. This legislation takes critical steps to ensure that every child in the United States has access to affordable quality health care. We are pleased that you and your colleagues have put this measure forward and we look forward to working with you in the coming months to ensure that the bill's provisions become law.

In addition to the important expansion of coverage options under Medicaid and CHIP, including those for pregnant women and immigrant children and their families, we strongly endorse the numerous components of the legislation that will make getting enrolled, and staying enrolled, in Medicaid and CHIP simpler for children and families. By expanding the types of entities that are able to perform presumptive eligibility determinations, consolidating application and enrollment procedures, and providing for automatic redetermination of eligibility, states can ensure that children and families have seamless access to quality care.

We appreciate your continued attention to the health care needs of our nation's children. If we can be of assistance in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact Graham Newson or Todd Askew of our Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald E. Cook, MD".

Donald E. Cook, MD, FAAP
President

CTA/cta