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

Dear Representative Dingell:

Consumers Union is writing in support of the "Family Care Act of 2000" which would move this nation closer to providing universal health care coverage to all Americans. The safety-net established in this bill, which you and Representatives Brown, Stark and Waxman are sponsoring, would ensure that more families across this nation have access to affordable and comprehensive care.

Specifically, we are pleased that bill extends health insurance coverage to parents of children enrolled in Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Medicaid program. While this expansion represents a step in the right direction, we urge you to consider expanding coverage even further to include families that participate in the foster care program. In addition, we are particularly pleased that the bill provides states new tools such as outreach activities through schools to identify and enroll families. With the number of uninsured Americans on the rise, we commend you for including resources for innovative expansions of health insurance coverage to the uninsured, including carefully designed pooling arrangements, small group market reforms, and subsidies (to individuals, employers or both) for obtaining health insurance coverage.

For all these reasons, we support this bill and applaud you and Representatives Brown, Stark, and Waxman for your efforts in moving this nation closer towards providing universal health care coverage to all Americans. We look forward to working with you to ensure its enactment.

Sincerely,

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