



KAISER PERMANENTE®

KAISER PERMANENTE
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March 13, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, House Energy and
Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

Kaiser Permanente shares your longstanding commitment to expanding health coverage in the United States as evidenced by your work to preserve and improve Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). We applaud your introduction of the "Children's Health First Act" as a bold statement that places children at the front of the line in our nation's efforts to reduce the number of uninsured.

Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente is the largest private, nonprofit integrated health care delivery system in the United States. The 12,000 physicians of the Permanente Medical Groups serve more than 8.7 million Kaiser Foundation Health Plan members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. We enroll Medicaid and SCHIP beneficiaries and ensure that they receive the same quality of services as any other Kaiser Permanente member. In California, for example, 110,000 children are members of Kaiser Permanente through California's SCHIP program, known as Healthy Families. For uninsured low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP, the Kaiser Permanente-funded Child Health Plan provides comprehensive health care to another 50,000 children.

Over the last 10 years SCHIP has proven to be a very successful program and deserves to be reauthorized with additional funding to states, many of which are embarking on efforts to improve both public and private-sector insurance coverage. We hope that Congressional action on SCHIP this year will be successful in reducing the number of uninsured children while preserving existing public and private coverage options for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Laird Burnett
Vice President, Government Relations