



Billy Tauzin

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

March 13, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) strongly supports SCHIP reauthorization and applauds your leadership on this issue. The Children's Health First Act provides an important building block for reauthorization. PhRMA believes that children's health coverage should rank high on the agenda of the 110th Congress.

America's biopharmaceutical companies are committed to working with members of Congress and other interested parties to find meaningful solutions to the health care problems facing our country. Since its creation nearly 10 years ago, SCHIP has proven effective in addressing one of these problems, children who lack health care insurance. SCHIP currently provides health care coverage for over six million low-income children and more than 10 million children have been covered through the program since its inception. Today, parents all across America have peace of mind because their children have health care coverage and can receive regular health exams and preventive care as needed.

Even with the success of SCHIP, millions of American's children still lack health care coverage, including many who are eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP or other public programs. We are particularly interested in provisions in your bill to help states find and enroll the approximately six million children who are eligible for SCHIP but who are not enrolled.

PhRMA and its member companies welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to ensure a successful reauthorization of SCHIP that increases coverage of children. Together, we can make certain the program continues to meet the needs of low-income children while enhancing the program's effectiveness and helping ensure that as many children as possible have access to health coverage.

Sincerely,


Billy Tauzin

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

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