

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DANNY K. DAVIS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

H.R. 5550, a bill “To Increase the Maximum Age to Qualify for Coverage as a Child Under the Health Benefits Program for Federal Employees”

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. Speaker, young adults are the fastest-growing age group among the uninsured. Almost 400,000 young adults (younger than 24) who graduate from college will be cut off from health insurance under their parent’s plan or from their universities. A report by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system in the United States, showed that 2 out of 5 college graduates are uninsured after they leave school.

Nationwide, 30.6 percent of 18 to 24 year olds are uninsured, making them the largest population without coverage in 2005. The numbers reflect an increase from 2004, when an estimated 13.7 million people ages 19 to 29 had no coverage. As recently as 2000, just 2.5 million were without health insurance, according to a 2005 survey by the Commonwealth Fund.

Young adults enrolled as dependents in Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) and their parents, will not have to worry about being uninsured if this legislation is enacted. This bill would raise the age young adults would qualify for health insurance under FEHBP from 22 to 25 years of age.

The federal government should not be contributing to the number of Americans that are uninsured. This bill would ensure, that at least the dependents of federal employees between the age of 22 and 25, get the health care and coverage they need.