

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

July 26, 2007

Honorable John Dingell, Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Barton:

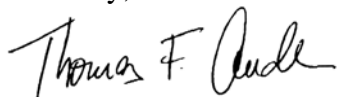
On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), we would like to express our support for the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP Act).

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) is a medical membership association established by child and adolescent psychiatrists in 1953. Now over 7,600 members strong, the AACAP is the leading national medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 7 - 12 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders.

Mental health is integral to the health and well-being of *all* children. Children coping with emotional and mental disorders must be identified, diagnosed, and treated to avoid the loss of critical developmental years that can never be recaptured. Currently, under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) mental health coverage is left up to the individual states. Under the CHAMP Act, mental health care would be treated equally with physical health care under benchmark benefits packages. The AACAP strongly urges the Energy and Committee to vote in support of the CHAMP Act.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and we commend your bipartisan efforts to cover America's uninsured children. Please contact Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.966.7300, x. 108, if you have any questions concerning children's mental health issues.

Sincerely,



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Thomas Anders, M.D.
President