



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

September 25, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I am writing to urge you to vote in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. This legislation reflects a fiscally-responsible bipartisan compromise that will extend health coverage to several million uninsured low- and moderate-income children, including children with disabilities.

AUCD is a network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.

AUCD applauds efforts by the Senate and the House of Representatives to expand health insurance coverage to low- and moderate-income children. Significantly, this legislation also imposes a moratorium on new restrictions in Medicaid rehabilitation and school-based services—stopping the implementation of new rules that could severely restrict access to community mental health services, day habilitation services for people with developmental disabilities, health care services for children receiving foster care, and Medicaid services provided in school settings for children with disabilities. This moratorium gives the Congress the opportunity to grapple with numerous complex policy issues and avoid ill-considered policy changes. The bill also strengthens the scope of CHIP benefits to ensure parity between physical and mental health benefits.

We strongly urge all Members to support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

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