

American Academy of Pediatrics



Reply To:
Department of Federal Affairs
American Academy of Pediatrics
The Homer Building
601 Thirteenth Street, NW
Suite 400 North
Washington, DC 20005
202/347-8600
800/336-5475
Fax: 202/393-6137
e-mail: kids1st@aap.org
http://www.aap.org

August 9, 1999

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

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of the 55,000 general pediatrician, pediatric medical subspecialist, and pediatric surgical specialist members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing to express our strong support of your recently introduced legislation, the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999 (HR 2723). We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to ensure that strong patient protection legislation becomes law this year.

We are especially pleased that your legislation recognizes the unique needs of children and addresses them appropriately. Children are not little adults. Their care should be provided by physicians who are appropriately educated in the unique physical and developmental issues surrounding the care of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. You clearly recognize this and have included access to appropriate pediatric specialists, as well as other important protections for children, as key provisions of your legislation.

Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to working with you to enact strong patient protection legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Graham Newson of our Washington office if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Joel J. Alpert, MD, FAAP
President

CC: Members, United States House of Representatives

CTA/cta

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