

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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July 15, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
US House Education and Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
US House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
US House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen:

On behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics who are committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, we write to express our support for your introduction of the America's Affordable Health Choices Act.

We commend you for your commitment to reforming our over-burdened health system, specifically your attention to the fact that children need different services. The bill makes significant progress in achieving the Academy's priorities of covering all children in the United States, providing children with age-appropriate benefits in a medical home, and establishing appropriate payment rates to guarantee children have access to covered services. Your legislation acknowledges that if children have access to comprehensive health services, many of the expensive morbidities of adulthood can be prevented, achieving President Obama's vision to invest in our future and bend the cost curve.

While we hope to continue to work with you regarding some of the proposals set forth in the legislation, the Academy greatly appreciates your decision to include myriad policies that will significantly improve the health and well being of our nation's children. We greatly appreciate your consideration of the needs of children and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the life success of every child is our nation's highest national priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David T. Tayloe Jr.".

David T. Tayloe Jr., MD, FAAP
President

DT: rth