

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

As organizations committed to ensuring that all of our nation's children get the health coverage they need and deserve, we are writing to thank you for your commitment to making children an important priority by filing Amendment #2790 to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590). Your amendment builds on the provisions of the underlying bill, continuing to protect and improve the country's successful Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and ensuring that no child ends up worse off as a result of health reform. We applaud your leadership.

America's children have a lot at stake in health reform. More than eight million children remain uninsured, and more are losing employer-sponsored coverage daily. Families are just one playground accident away from medical bankruptcy. Each day a child is uninsured is a lost opportunity to strengthen our next generation, America's future. Your amendment goes a long way toward protecting and improving coverage for millions of children in low-income working families across the nation by:

- Providing full funding for CHIP through 2019;
- Maintaining current CHIP eligibility through 2013, and setting a floor for income eligibility for children in all states at 250 percent of poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four) beginning in 2014;
- Streamlining enrollment procedures making it easier for children to get coverage and keep it;
- Ensuring that coverage for children remains affordable;
- Guaranteeing all children in CHIP the comprehensive care they need from head to toe; and
- Requiring an HHS report in 2016 that will compare coverage for children in CHIP with coverage for children in the new Health Insurance Exchange and if coverage (including benefits, cost-sharing, premiums, and other features) is comparable or better, children can be transitioned from CHIP into the Exchange in 2019.

Our nation has made great strides over the last decade in securing health coverage for low-income children of working families. We must now seize this historic opportunity to build on the success of prior efforts and the bipartisan CHIP program, and ensure that children will be better off, not worse off, as a result of health reform. Your amendment will do just that.

We offer our strong support for your CHIP Amendment (#2790). We stand ready to work with you and your Senate colleagues to achieve our common goal of reforming our nation's health care system and ensuring that all children, indeed everyone in America, have access to the health coverage they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

9to5, National Association of Working Women

A World Fit for Kids!

Academic Pediatric Association
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
America's Promise Alliance
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of School Administrators
American Heart Association
American Humane Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
Americans for Democratic Action
Asian American Justice Center
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.
Break the Cycle
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools 2010 Ella Baker Trainers
Children's Dental Health Project
The Children's Health Fund
Children's HealthWatch
The Children's Partnership
Coalition on Human Needs
Communities in Schools
Community Action Partnership
Council for Exceptional Children
Epilepsy Foundation
Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Every Child Matters Education Fund
Families USA

Family Voices
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
First Five Years Fund
First Focus Campaign for Children
First Star
Forum for Youth Investment
Foster Care Alumni of America
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
GrandFamilies of America
Great Kids, Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary
LEAnet
The Links, Incorporated
Medicaid Health Plans of America
Molina Healthcare, Inc.
MomsRising.org
Mothers Acting Up
NAACP
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association of Black Social Workers
National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Mothers' Centers
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Child Development Institute

The National Center on Family Homelessness
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Collaboration for Youth
National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of La Raza
National Council of Negro Women
National Foster Care Coalition
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Indian Health Board
National Independent Living Association
National Minority AIDS Council
National Network for Youth
National Parent Teacher Association
National Respite Coalition
National Youth Advocate Program
Nemours
OCA
One Sky Center - Oregon Health & Science University
Oral Health America
Orphan Foundation of America
Prevent Child Abuse America
Project Kid Smart
Public Education Network
Results
Save the Children
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU
Single Stop USA
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
United Way Worldwide
Voice for Adoption
Voices for America's Children
Vote Kids

YouthBuild USA

ZERO TO THREE

National Faith Organizations

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

African Methodist Episcopal Church

African Methodist Episcopal Church, Women's Missionary Society

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society

American Baptist Churches, USA

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

Church Women United

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Women's Missionary Council

Church of the Brethren

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC)

The Episcopal Church

Islamic Society of North America

Moravian Church-Northern Province

National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

National Council of Jewish Women

National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

North American Area, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

PICO National Network

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World

The Presbyterian Church, USA

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America

Sojourners

The Swedenborgian Church in North America

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Church

United Methodist Church-Women's Division

Bishops of African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches *

African Methodist Episcopal Districts

Senior Bishop and Presiding Bishop of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan

Presiding Bishop of New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Western New York, New England, Philadelphia

Presiding Bishop of Baltimore, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina

Presiding Bishop of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

Presiding Bishop of California, Desert Mountain, Midwest, Missouri, Pacific Northwest

Presiding Bishop of Georgia

Presiding Bishop of South Carolina

Presiding Bishop of Mississippi, Louisiana

Presiding Bishop of Alabama

Presiding Bishop of Texas

Presiding Bishop of Florida

Presiding Bishop of Oklahoma and Arkansas

Presiding Bishop of Tennessee and Kentucky

Bishop of Office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Districts

Senior Bishop and Presiding Bishop of Blue Ridge, West Central North Carolina, Western North Carolina

Presiding Bishop of New York, New England, Western New York

Presiding Bishop of Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina

President, Board of Bishops, and Presiding Bishop of West Virginia, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania

Presiding Bishop of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee

Presiding Bishop of Ohio, Alleghany (Western Pennsylvania), New Jersey

Presiding Bishop of Alabama, Florida

Presiding Bishop of South Carolina, Georgia

Presiding Bishop of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas, West Tennessee

Presiding Bishop of California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Alaska

Christian Methodist Episcopal Districts

Senior Bishop and Presiding Bishop of Tennessee, Arkansas

Presiding Bishop of Kentucky, Ohio, Central Indiana

Presiding Bishop of Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin

Presiding Bishop of Louisiana, Mississippi

Presiding Bishop of Alabama, Florida

Presiding Bishop of Georgia

Presiding Bishop of New York, Washington-Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina,
New England

Presiding Bishop of Texas

Presiding Bishop of Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oklahoma

**The AME, AMEZ, and CME endorsements represent approximately 5 million African American constituents*

State and Local Organizations

3RNet – National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network	WI
A Child’s Haven	SC
Ability HomeCare	TX
Achievement Centers for Children	OH
Action for Children North Carolina	NC
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program of the Children’s Aid Society	NY
The Adoption Exchange	CO
Advocates for Children and Youth	MD
Agenda for Children	LA
Aloha United Way	HI
American Association of University Women, Delaware State	DE
American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York	NY
The Arc of Greater Cleveland	OH
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families	AR
Asian Services In Action, Inc.	OH
Association for Children of New Jersey	NJ
Avant-Garde Foster Family Agency, Inc.	CA
Bell Policy Center	CO

Black Child Development Institute	GA
Black Child Development Institute	TX
Black Child Development Institute	CA
Black Child Development Institute	MI
Black Children's Institute of Tennessee	TN
Black Student Alliance at Yale	CT
Bread for the World New Orleans Chapter	LA
Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland	OH
Cal-islanders Humanitarian Association	CA
California Children's Health Initiative	CA
California Children's Hospital Association	CA
The Care House of the Pee Dee	SC
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany	NY
California Primary Care Association	CA
California Rural Indian Health Board	CA
California School Health Centers Association	CA
CareSource	OH
CareSource	MI
CBR YouthConnect	CO
The Center for Community Solutions	OH
Center for Public Policy Priorities	TX
Child & Family Policy Center	IA
Child and Family Resources, Inc.	AZ
Children and Family Urban Ministries	IA
CHILDREN AT RISK	TX
Children First for Oregon	OR
Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County	NC
Children Now	CA
Children, Youth & Family Services	VA
Children's Advocacy Institute	CA
Children's Action Alliance	AZ
The Children's Aid Society	NY
Children's Alliance	WA
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire	NH
Children's Campaign, Inc.	FL

Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana	LA
Children's Defense Fund Freedom School	KS
Children's Health Action Coalition	MA
Children's Health Care Is a Legal Duty	IA
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	PA
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC	PA
Children's Services Council of Broward County	FL
Children's Trust of South Carolina	SC
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.	NY
Citizens for Missouri's Children	MO
Clearfield Area United Way	PA
Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth	CA
Collaborative Center for Justice	CT
Colorado Children's Campaign	CO
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families	CO
The Colorado Health Foundation	CO
Colorado Latino Forum	CO
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands	VI
Community First Health Plans	TX
Community Health Choice, Inc.	TX
Community Health Councils	CA
Community Justice Project	PA
Connecticut Association for Human Services	CT
Connecticut Voices for Children	CT
Consumer Health Coalition	PA
Cook Children's Health Plan	TX
Cortland Area Child Care Council	NY
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families	KY
Cumberland Trails United Way	KY
DC Action for Children	DC
DC Assembly on School Health Care	DC
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.	NY
Daymark, Inc.	WV
Delaware Children's Campaign	DE
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Southern Nevada	NV

Director of Family Support Services	AZ
Driscoll Children's Health Plan	TX
Early Care and Learning	OH
Early Care & Learning Council	NY
East End Community Services	OH
Elev8 Oakland	CA
Every Child Matters in Maine	ME
Every Child Matters in New Hampshire	NH
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.	PA
Family Health Clinic	MT
Family Nurturing Center of Central New York, Inc.	NY
Family Pride Foundation	NM
Family Resource and Referral Center	CA
Foothills Alliance	SC
For Love of Children	PA
Foster Parents Association of Washington State	WA
Florida Covering Kids and Families	FL
Good Beginnings Alliance	HI
Great Falls Clinic, Department of Pediatrics	MT
Greater Bridgeport Section National Council of Jewish Women, Inc.	CT
Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way	PA
Greenwood Community Children's Center	SC
Growth & Justice	MN
Healthy Capital District Initiative	NY
Healthy Kids Sonoma County	CA
Healthy Mineral County Coalition	WV
Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida	FL
Higher Education-Higher Goals	TN
HighRise Services, Inc.	OH
Horizon Activities Centers	OH
Human Services Coalition	FL
Human Services Coalition of Oregon	OR
Hunger Solutions Minnesota	MN
Idaho Voices for Children Foundation, Inc.	ID
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition	IL

Interfaith Worker Justice Committee of Colorado	CO
Jacksonville Adventist Academy	FL
Jacksonville Children's Commission	FL
John Burton Foundation	CA
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services	NY
Justfaith Combined Groups	TN
Kansas Action for Children	KS
Kentucky Primary Care Association	KY
Kentucky Youth Advocates	KY
Ketelsen Elementary School	TX
Kids in Common	CA
KIDS COUNT in Delaware	DE
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center	TX
Leadership Team Sisters of the Most Precious Blood	MO
Louisiana Covering Kids and Families	LA
Maine Children's Alliance	ME
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	MA
Massachusetts Citizens for Children	MA
Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program	MA
Maternal and Child Health Access	CA
Maternity Care Coalition	PA
McLeod Children's Hospital	SC
The Mental Health Association of Rhode Island	RI
Metro United Way	KY
Michigan League for Human Services	MI
Michigan Primary Care Association	MI
Michigan's Children	MI
Miller Children's Hospital	CA
Mississippi Center for Justice	MS
Montana Human Rights Network	MT
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission	PA
Morris Heights Health Center	NY
Mount St. Vincent Home	CO
NYCDOT	NY
National Association of Social Workers, North Dakota	ND

National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter	ME
National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter	MD
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter	CT
National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter	IA
National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter	LA
National Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter	DC
National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter	TX
National Association of Social Workers, Virginia Chapter	VA
National Association of Social Workers, Washington Chapter	WA
National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter	WV
Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy	NV
New England Alliance for Children's Health	MA
New Hampshire Citizens Alliance	NH
New Mexico Pediatric Society	NM
New Mexico Voices for Children	NM
North America Council on Adoptable Children	MN
North Dakota KIDS COUNT	ND
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations	WA
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board	OR
Notre Dame Children's Defense Fund	IN
Ohio Association of School Nurses	OH
Ohio Family Care Association	OH
Ohio School Based Health Care Association	OH
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	OK
Olmsted Community Action Program	MN
One Stop Career Center of PR Inc.	PR
Oshkosh Area United Way	WI
Parenting Life Skills Center	MO
Parenting Partners	SC
The Parenting Place and Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County	SC
Parents Anonymous® Inc.	CA
Parents Anonymous of South Carolina	SC
Partnership for Children	KS/MO
PathWays PA	PA
Pennsylvania Head Start Association	PA

Pennsylvania Health Law Project	PA
Pennsylvania Home-based Child Care Providers Association	PA
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	PA
POEM, Inc.	OH
Potential Development Program, Inc.	OH
Positive Education Program	OH
Prevent Child Abuse New York	NY
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia	VA
Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads	VA
Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming	WY
Priority Children	MI
Project Community, Inc.	VA
Public Citizens for Children & Youth	PA
REACH Healthcare Foundation	KS
Redwood Community Health Coalition	CA
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	RI
ROSE Community Development	OR
Rosie's Place	MA
St. Andrew Lutheran Church	TN
St. Anthony Foundation	CA
St. George's Community Center	KY
St. Mary's Center	CA
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	NH
Safe Passages	CA
Safe Passage, Inc.	SC
Salt Lake Community Action Program	UT
San Francisco Bringing Up Healthy Kids Coalition	CA
San Ysidro Health Center	CA
Samaritan Recovery Community, Inc.	TN
School Community Health Alliance of MI	MI
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy	NY
Seattle Indian Health Board	WA
Senior Benefits and Policy Analysis	SC
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team	NE
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province	MO

Slavic Village Development	OH
Social Justice Center at Stony Brook U. School of Social Welfare	NY
Society for Adolescent Medicine	IL
Solutions for Children and Caregivers of Maryland	MD
South Carolina Association of Children's Homes and Family Services	SC
South Carolina Children's Advocacy Medical Response System	SC
South Dakota KIDS COUNT	SD
South Dakota Voices for Children	SD
Southern Early Childhood Association	AR
Special Care & Career Services	TX
Springfield Urban League, Inc.	IL
Stanford University Students for UNICEF	CA
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey	NJ
Stop It Now!	MA
Students Advocating for Youth – Howard University	DC
Students Advocating for Youth – Yale University	CT
Students for Healthcare Reform – Howard University	DC
Survivors Inc.	MA
Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth	TN
Texans Care for Children	TX
Texas – American Federation of Teachers	TX
Texas Children's Health Plan	TX
Trashcan Lid Productions	NH
Trident United Way South Carolina	SC
Union for Reform Judaism	NY
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Action Network	CA
United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.	TN
United Way of Atlantic County	NJ
United Way Association of South Carolina	SC
United Way of Aroostook	ME
United Way of the Bay Area	CA
United Way of Beaver County	PA
United Ways of California	CA
United Way of Central Kentucky	KY
United Way of Central Ohio	OH

United Way of the Coastal Bend	TX
United Way of Delaware County	IN
United Way of Florida	FL
United Way Fox Cities	WI
United Way of Greater Cincinnati	KY
United Way of Greater Portland	ME
United Way of Greater Rochester	NY
United Way of Iberia, Inc.	LA
United Way of Kentucky	KY
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties	PA
United Way of the Laurel Highlands	PA
United Way of Lawrence County	PA
United Way of Loudon County	TN
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	IL
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville	TN
United Way of Mid-Maine	ME
United Way of Monmouth County	NJ
United Way of New York City	NY
United Way of Northeast Kentucky	KY
United Way of Pennsylvania	PA
United Way of Pennyrile	KY
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County	TX
United Way of Santa Cruz County	CA
United Way of Seneca County, Inc.	NY
United Way Silicon Valley	CA
United way of South Hampton Roads	VA
United Way of South Texas	TX
United Way of Southern Kentucky	KY
United Way of Southeastern Kentucky	KY
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania	PA
United Ways of Tennessee	TN
United Way of Washtenaw County	MI
United Way of York County	PA
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio	OH
Virginia Poverty Law Center	VA

Voices for Alabama's Children	AL
Voices for Children in Nebraska	NE
Voices for Children of San Antonio	TX
Voices for Illinois Children	IL
Voices for Georgia's Children	GA
Voices for Ohio's Children	OH
Voices for South Carolina's Children	SC
Voices for Utah Children	UT
Voices for Vermont's Children	VT
Voices for Virginia's Children	VA
WEEL	MT
West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families	WV
West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund	WV
West Virginia Primary Care Association	WV
WV School Based Health Assembly	WV
Westchester Children's Association	NY
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	WI
Wyoming Children's Action Alliance	WY
Wyoming Counseling Inc.	WY
York County Safe Kids	SC
Young Families Early Head Start	MT
Youth Engaged for Success, Inc.	OH
Youth Together	CA
YWCA Central Alabama	AL
YWCA Hartford Region	CT

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate