



**American Hospital  
Association**

Liberty Place, Suite 700  
325 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-2802  
(202) 638-1100 Phone  
[www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)

July 31, 2007

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, and other health care organizations, and our 37,000 individual members, I am writing to express our strong support for The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S. 1893).

This critical legislation builds on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which has been instrumental in providing health care coverage to more than 6 million low-income children. It will help an additional 3.2 million uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP but currently not enrolled receive coverage. The bill's restructuring of state allotments, along with increased funding amounts, will allow states to cover more children while preventing the shortfalls that have recently plagued the program.

We support the plan to increase the federal tax on tobacco to fund the program's renewal. We also appreciate the legislative provisions that relieve some of the administrative burdens being imposed on states by the citizenship documentation requirements for Medicaid eligibility that were instituted as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, as well as the inclusion of provisions to extend optional coverage to pregnant women.

We appreciate your efforts to improve the SCHIP program and provide uninsured, low-income American children with the health care coverage they need and deserve. We urge you to support The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 when it comes to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

