

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA)

Protect children and families through affordable and accessible health coverage

Organization Description: CCUSA is one of the nation's largest social service networks serving people in need, regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds. CCUSA membership consists of volunteers and a network of 173 main Catholic Charities agencies and their 1,500 branches and affiliates across the country. It leverages this network to help children and families get access to health coverage and quality medical care.

Proposal Summary: CCUSA's advocacy agenda supports universal health coverage with a focus on ensuring access for children and poor families. Its legislative priorities include preserving the Medicaid entitlement, fixing State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding shortages, and extending the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program for families moving off welfare and into the workforce. In the past, CCUSA worked with Children's Health Matters, an alliance of seven Catholic organizations, to facilitate enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP. Health care is only a subset of a much broader CCUSA legislative agenda covering issues ranging from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to immigration to housing.

- **Coverage:** CCUSA advocates for universal coverage and focuses on getting health coverage for children and vulnerable families by adequately funding SCHIP and easing enrollment processes for Medicaid and SCHIP. It supports expanding coverage for everyone, making health insurance more affordable, and making health care more accessible to rural areas.
- **Care Coordination:** CCUSA supports improved integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- **Other:** The organization also advocates to promote adequate coverage and protections for low-income Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D drug benefit.

Proposal Date: 2006-2007

Sources: *Catholic Charities USA's Legislative Agenda for the 110th Congress, 2007*, <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy/index.cfm?cfid=2065723&cftoken=58427245>; *Children's Health Insurance Issue Brief, 2007*, <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/downloads/ChildrenHealthIssueBrief.pdf>; *Press Release – SCHIP, 2007*, http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/news/content_displays.cfm?fuseaction=display_document&id=927&location=3; *CCUSA 2006 Legislative Priorities*, <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative06.cfm#levelA>; *Children's Health Matters Advocacy Agenda*, <http://bshsi.com/strategic-direction/improve-comm/advocacy.htm>.