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 Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
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
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
Easter Seals
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
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
Japanese American Citizens League
Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary
LEAnet
The Links, Incorporated
Medicaid Health Plans of America
Mental Health 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 Coalition of 100 Black Women
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
Out of Many, One
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
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Justice Team
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

*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
A Common Voice for Pierce County Parents   WA
Ability HomeCare   TX
Achievement Centers for Children   OH
Action by Congregations Together for Children   NY
Action for Children North Carolina   NC
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program of the Children’s Aid Society   NY
The Adoption Exchange   CO
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Colorado Latino Forum
The Commission on the Public's Health System
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands
Community First Health Plans
Community Health Choice, Inc.
Community Health Councils
Community Justice Project
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Commission on Children
Connecticut Voices for Children
Consumer Health Coalition
Cook Children’s Health Plan
Cortland Area Child Care Council
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families
Cumberland Trails United Way
DC Action for Children
DC Assembly on School Health Care
Daughters of Charity, St. Louis Provincial Council
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.
Daymark, Inc.
Delaware Children’s Campaign
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Xi Chapter
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Southern Nevada
Direct Action Welfare Group Inc.
Director of Family Support Services
District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Driscoll Children’s Health Plan
Early Care and Learning
Early Care & Learning Council
East End Community Services
Elev8 Oakland
Empire Justice Center
Every Child Matters in Maine
Every Child Matters in New Hampshire
Families United for Children’s Mental Health
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
Juvenile Justice Coalition of Ohio  OH
JWB Children’s Services Council of Pinellas County  FL
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
MeritCare Children's Hospital  ND
Metro United Way  KY
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty  NY
Michigan League for Human Services  MI
Michigan Primary Care Association  MI
Michigan’s Children  MI
Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department  OH
Miller Children’s Hospital  CA
Mississippi Center for Justice  MS
Montana Change that Works  MT
Montana Children’s Trust Fund MT
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, AZ Chapter AZ
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, Tennessee Chapter TN
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 Association for the Education of Young Children's State governing board NV
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 Country Children's Clinic NY
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 Hispanic Coalition OH
Ohio School Based Health Care Association OH
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Olmsted Community Action Program
One Stop Career Center of PR Inc.
Oshkosh Area United Way
Parent Support Network of Rhode Island
Parenting Life Skills Center
Parenting Partners
The Parenting Place and Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County
Parents Anonymous® Inc.
Parents Anonymous of South Carolina
Partnership for Children
PathWays PA
Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Home-based Child Care Providers Association
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc. Eta Beta Graduate/Professional Chapter
POEM, Inc.
Potential Development Program, Inc.
Positive Education Program
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads
Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming
Priority Children
Project Community, Inc.
Public Citizens for Children & Youth
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Redwood Community Health Coalition
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
ROSE Community Development
Rosie’s Place
Rural Dynamics Incorporated
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
St. Anthony Foundation  CA
St. George’s Community Center  KY
St. Landry-Evangeline United Way  LA
St. Mary’s Center  CA
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church  NH
Safe Passages  CA
Safe Passage, Inc.  SC
Safe Space NYC, Inc.  NY
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 of Business Student Council – Howard University  DC
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 – Davidson College  NC
Students Advocating for Youth – Howard University  DC
Students Advocating for Youth – Yale University
Students for Healthcare Reform – Howard University
Survivors Inc.
Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth
Texans Care for Children
Texas – American Federation of Teachers
Texas Children's Health Plan
Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition
Trashcan Lid Productions
Trident United Way South Carolina
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Action Network
United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.
United Neighborhood Houses
United Way of Atlantic County
United Way Association of South Carolina
United Way of Aroostook
United Way of the Bay Area
United Way of Beaver County
United Ways of California
United Way of Central Kentucky
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of the Coastal Bend
United Way of Delaware County
United Way of Florida
United Way Fox Cities
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Greater Portland
United Way of Greater Rochester
United Way of Iberia, Inc.
United Way of Kentucky
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties
United Way of the Laurel Highlands
United Way of Lawrence County
United Way of Loudon County
United Way of the Laurel Highlands
United Way of Lawrence County
United Way of Loudon County
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
United Way of Mid-Maine
United Way of the Mid-South
United Way of Monmouth County
United Way of New York City
United Way of Northeast Kentucky
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way of Pennyrile
United Way of Rhode Island
United Way of Salt Lake
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County
United Way of Santa Cruz County
United Way of Seneca County, Inc.
United Way Silicon Valley
United Way of South Hampton Roads
United Way of South Texas
United Way of Southern Kentucky
United Way of Southeastern Kentucky
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
United Ways of Tennessee
United Way of Washtenaw County
United Way of York County
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio
UPLIFT
Vermont Family Network
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for Alabama’s Children
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Children of San Antonio
Voices for Illinois Children
Voices for Georgia’s Children
Voices for Ohio’s Children
Voices for South Carolina’s Children
Voices for Utah Children

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