

Healthy Children Ensure a Healthy World You can help make it a reality today!

As we seek to ensure health care for all people, we have an opportunity to take the first step by providing health coverage for all children. In March 2009, Congress will decide whether or not millions of children in America have the health coverage they need to reach their God-given potential in life and school. With nearly **9 million children still uninsured and the 2008 elections fast approaching, NOW is the time for people of faith to engage in the prophetic work to guarantee comprehensive health coverage for all children and pregnant women! We can't afford to waste this opportunity.**

- All religious traditions and teachings agree that *all children* are sacred gifts. We are entrusted by our Creator to care and nurture their physical, mental and spiritual health.
- Lack of access to even basic health screenings and services can have devastating and lasting effects on children. Poor health impacts children's educational attainment and social development, which prevents children from reaching their full potential and robs America of its future.
- Children are our nation's greatest investment and the least expensive group to cover. Every \$1 spent on vaccinations for children saves \$16 in health and social costs to the community. To insure all children and pregnant women would cost every American less than \$1 per week.
- Americans overwhelmingly (80 percent) support expanding health coverage for *all children* through government programs.

America's moral health is determined by how we treat our children. Every step we take to improve the lives of children improves the lives of all of us.

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The elections in November provide an extraordinary opportunity to bring even *more* attention to this critical issue. We must seize this historic opportunity to ensure that each candidate running for a seat in the U.S. Congress understands that providing coverage for every child is something the American people want, that our children and nation can't wait, and that their commitment to children is a condition of your vote. The problems are solvable when the community comes together **to create a loud, unified, undeniable call for society to live up to its moral responsibility to care and protect all our children.**

Tell your candidates and elected officials to support health coverage legislation that includes the following:

- ***Affordable* Coverage for Every Child and Pregnant Woman**
- **Benefits That Are *Comprehensive***
- ***Simple Enrollment* and Recertification Processes**
- **Ensured Real Access to *Services***

Now Is the Time to Step Up and Take Action...

- Pray for hope and healing for all our children.
- Ask the Congressional candidates in your district to pledge to cover all children if elected (visit www.childrensdefense.org/pledge).
- Write a letter to your elected officials, letting them know why covering all children is important to you. (Visit www.childrensdefense.org/SabbathsActions for instructions on how to write an effective letter.)
- Tell your friends and family to step forward for children by engaging in CDF's Health Coverage for All Children Campaign.



Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org

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