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 on American Indian Affairs
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
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
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 of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth
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 Community Health Centers
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 Education Association
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
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
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
Advocates for Children and Youth  MD
Agenda for Children  LA
Alaska Center for Public Policy  AK
Aloha United Way  HI
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Beta Epsilon Chapter  KY
American Association of University Women, Delaware State  DE
American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York  NY
The Arab-American Family Support Center  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
The Bronx Health Link, Inc.  NY
Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland  OH
Boystown Institute For Child Health Improvement  NE
Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.  NY
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Citizens for Missouri’s Children  
Clearfield Area United Way  
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families  
Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Colorado Children’s Campaign  
Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families  
The Colorado Council of Churches  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
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 Health Partners  
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  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families  
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
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 Citizens Alliance  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Xi Chapter  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Southern Nevada  
Direct Action Welfare Group Inc.  
Director of Family Support Services  
The Disparities Solutions Center at James J. Mongan, M.D., Institute for Health Policy  
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  
Elim Transitional Housing, Inc.  
Empire Justice Center  
Every Child Matters in Maine  
Every Child Matters in New Hampshire  
Families United for Children’s Mental Health  
Family Based Services Association of NJ  
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.  
Family Health Clinic  
Family Nurturing Center of Central New York, Inc.  
Family Pride Foundation  
Family Resource and Referral Center  
Family Support Network  
Family Voices of Vermont  
The Fathers House Outreach Ministry  
Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health ~ Colorado Chapter  
First Congregational United Church of Christ
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John Burton Foundation CA
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services NY
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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
Mended Little Hearts TX
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 Education Innovation MS
Mississippi Center for Justice MS
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program MS
Mississippi Human Services Coalition MS
Mississippi Primary Health Care Association  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
MN Affirmative Options Coalition  MN
MN Community Action Partnership  MN
MN Hunger Solutions  MN
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
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National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter  IA
National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter  LA
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National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter  NV
National Association of Social Workers, RI Chapter  RI
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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 Disabilities Advocacy Consortium  ND
North Dakota KIDS COUNT  ND
ND Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health  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  OK
Olmsted Community Action Program  MN
One Stop Career Center of PR Inc.  PR
Oshkosh Area United Way  WI
Parent Support Network of Rhode Island  RI
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
Perico Institute for Youth Development  MI
Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc. Eta Beta Graduate/Professional Chapter  IL
POEM, Inc.  OH
Potential Development Program, Inc.  OH
Positive Education Program  OH
Preschool California  CA
Prevent Child Abuse New York  NY
Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island  RI
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
Rural Dynamics Incorporated  MT
St. Andrew Lutheran Church  TN
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
The Sheltering Arms Foundation  MN
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
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<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Beaver County</td>
<td>PA</td>
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<td>United Ways of California</td>
<td>CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Central Kentucky</td>
<td>KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Central Ohio</td>
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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 Kansas City  MO
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 the Mid-South  TN
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 Rhode Island  RI
United Way of Salt Lake  UT
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
UPLIFT  WY
Vermont Family Network  VT
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 7th Community Center  MN
West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families  WV
West Virginia Association for Young Children  WV
West Virginia Council of Churches  WV
West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition  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
Wolfson Children’s Hospital  FL
Wyoming Children’s Action Alliance  WY
Wyoming Counseling Inc.  WY
York County Safe Kids  SC
Young Families Early Head Start  MT
The Young Fathers Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  NJ
Youth Engaged for Success, Inc.  OH
Youth Together  CA
YMCA Greater Cleveland       OH
YWCA Central Alabama        AL
YWCA Hartford Region       CT

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