

Singer Paul Simon urges health care reform

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WASHINGTON Singer-songwriter Paul Simon tried to lend a little harmony to the raucous health care debate Wednesday by pushing for a health care overhaul with Democratic leaders of Congress.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid couldn't resist musical references in the appearance with the popular performer who advocates improving health care for children.

"If there were ever a bridge that we need over these troubled waters, it's passing comprehensive health care reform," Reid said, describing how children have fared in the country's health care delivery system.

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" was a hit for the duo Simon & Garfunkel, written by Simon. Simon joined Reid, House speaker Nancy Pelosi and various child advocates to push for health care changes at an event on the Capitol lawn.

Simon co-founded the **Children's Health Fund**, which provides medical care for poor and underserved kids. He said the fund believes a health care measure "would go a long way to fill the gap in health care - the gap that these children live in and suffer in."

Simon urged lawmakers to improve health care for children: "Poor kids can't vote. Neither can they afford to hire lobbyists to plead their cause or to describe their situation."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, talks to Children's Health Fund co-founders Dr. Irwin Redlener, center, and singer/songwriter Paul Simon, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, during a news conference to raise awareness of the children who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan.





House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., second from left, shakes hands with American Academy of Pediatrics President David Tayloe on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, during a news conference to raise

awareness of the children who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan. Children's Health Fund co-founder and singer/songwriter Paul Simon is second from right, Children's Health Fund Advisory Council Chair Jane Pauley is at left. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, second left, greets, right, as Children's Health Fund co-founder and singer/songwriter Paul Simon, second right, and CHF's Advisory Council Chair Jane Pauley, left, look on during a gathering on Capitol Hill grounds in Washington, to raise awareness of the more than 21 million kids who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, gives Children's Health Fund co-founder and singer/songwriter Paul Simon on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, during a news conference to raise awareness of the children who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan.



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., left, and Children's Health Fund co-founder and singer/songwriter Paul Simon take part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, to raise awareness of the children who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, greets Children's Health Fund co-founder and singer/songwriter Paul Simon on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, during a news conference to raise awareness of the children who will benefit from President Obama's proposed health care plan. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

