



Children's Health Fund

Advocacy at Work

During the month of August, Children's Health Fund National Network Medical Directors stepped up to the plate by supporting health care reform in meetings with their lawmakers. From California to Florida, these pediatric professionals brought up real issues they face every day in treating children in underserved areas.



CALIFORNIA

Facing serious budget problems, California has taken drastic measures, cutting the state's CHIP program which provides health insurance for working families and services that range from developmental screenings to mental health programs. In response to this crisis, CHF Medical Directors Seth Ammerman and Arthur Cho visited their elected officials to advocate on behalf of their patients.



In San Francisco, Dr. Seth Ammerman met with Representative Anna Eshoo's office, thanking them for their support of health care reform. They discussed universal coverage for children and youth, the medical home model, coverage for transitional age youth up to age 25 and reimbursement for primary care providers.

Dr. Arthur Cho, of the Los Angeles Children's Health Project met with Senator Dianne Feinstein's office. In discussing the need for health care reform, Dr. Cho emphasized the need to expand health care coverage to all children, increase funding for primary care providers and the advantages of the medical home model of care. Local issues, particularly the economic downturn and the increasing number of families seeking the program's health, were also a main point of discussion.



FLORIDA

In South Florida, Medical Director A.J. Khaw met with Senator Bill Nelson's office to discuss the economic downturn and the importance of health care reform. Dr. Khaw's program is seeing a greater number of middle-class families who have recently lost their employment, and therefore their health insurance. Many of these families need food bank referrals. Children feel this recession the hardest, many are expressing stress they feel due to their families economic troubles. Taking these concerns to Senator Nelson, Dr. Khaw advocated for increased awareness of these issues and support for health care reform.



ARIZONA

Dr. Randy Christensen is known in Phoenix as a trusted advocate for children. He recently visited Representative Ed Pastor's district office to offer support for health care reform and talk about the toll the economic downturn has had on the community. Arizona has dealt with the economic downturn longer than most other states, with rates of foreclosures persisting through the last year. This has increased the number of newly homeless children and families who need assistance from the Phoenix Children's Health Project. With the demand for services and rates of uninsured increasing, Dr. Christensen advocated for health care reform to strengthen the safety net that is so desperately needed.