



## Children's Health Fund

January 7, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Senator Reid,

As we near to victory in the momentous struggle to enact national health reform legislation, we at the Children's Health Fund thank you for your continuing leadership in this historic effort. Earlier this year we stood beside you on the Capitol Lawn to call for the passage of legislation that provides all children with access to comprehensive and affordable health care. Now, more than ever, your leadership is essential to ensure that the final bill delivered to the President provides the best possible outcome for our nation's children.

We are writing to express our support for the preservation of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) allowed for in the Senate bill. CHIP currently covers over 7 million low-income kids and this total is expected to rise to 14.1 million by 2013. CHF believes that to weaken and dismantle this program would be profoundly detrimental to the successes we've achieved for children's health. One study found that families, depending on their income, would pay between seven and thirty-five percent of their health costs out-of-pocket if moved to private coverage compared to two percent or less under CHIP. The Congressional Budget Office came to the same conclusions and predicts that these increased costs would deter some families from enrolling their eligible children, even when faced with mandate penalties. As the bill moves forward, CHF urges Congress to ensure that CHIP is both authorized *and* funded through 2019.

Your stalwart leadership to ensure health care access for America's children gives us hope that we will soon see real reform that benefits kids.

Sincerely,

Irwin Redlener, MD  
Co-Founder and President  
Children's Health Fund

Paul Simon  
Co-founder  
Children's Health Fund