

January 5, 2007

Representative Pete Stark
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

On behalf of Families USA, the national consumer health organization, I am writing to congratulate you on the introduction of the "MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2007." This important legislation will help keep the nation's attention focused on the plight of the uninsured.

Over 46 million Americans lack health insurance, more than 9 million of whom are children. Health insurance is an essential component to a child's well being. Children who have health insurance are more likely to get the health care services they need and to have both a usual source of care and access to preventive care. In contrast, children without health insurance are less likely to have a usual source of care, are more likely to delay seeking care, and are less likely to use preventative services resulting in a greater probability that these children will require avoidable hospitalizations and/or emergency care. We must make investing in children's care a national priority.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication on this very important issue. We look forward to working with you to advance the "MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2007."

Sincerely,



Ronald F. Pollack
Executive Director