

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to

Department of Federal Affairs

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee

President

David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors

District I

Edward N. Bailey, MD, FAAP
Salem, MA

District II

Henry A. Schaeffer, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

Sandra Gibson Hassink, MD, FAAP
Wilmington, DE

District IV

Francis E. Rushton, Jr, MD, FAAP
Beaufort, SC

District V

Marilyn J. Bull, MD, FAAP
Indianapolis, IN

District VI

Michael V. Severson, MD, FAAP
Brainerd, MN

District VII

Kenneth E. Matthews, MD, FAAP
College Station, TX

District VIII

Mary P. Brown, MD, FAAP
Bend, OR

District IX

Myles B. Abbott, MD, FAAP
Berkeley, CA

District X

John S. Curran, MD, FAAP
Tampa, FL

January 6, 2009

The Honorable Fortney H. "Pete" Stark
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0513

Dear Chairman Stark:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (the Academy) and its 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists, I write to express our gratitude for your leadership in introducing the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2009. Assuring that all children have health insurance is not only essential to the attainment of optimal child health and outcomes, but also the best way to prevent significant adult morbidity and cost.

You have set the tone by introducing MediKids as an initial foray into health reform, and the Academy is pleased to support it. As pediatricians, we recognize the importance of health care coverage for every child. During difficult economic times, investing in children is the real recovery package. The preventive services that children receive during pediatric visits will pay dividends in the future by creating a healthier population, and reducing the cost of future care.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation for your willingness to set forth significant language on quality measurement and to explore appropriate payment as the legislation moves through the legislative process. Not only would the legislation create health insurance coverage for millions of uninsured children, adolescents and young adults, but it does so in a way that embodies key Academy Principles on access to health care.

Children will greatly benefit from Medikids' administrative simplicity, comprehensive benefits and seamless coverage regardless of parental income. Under MediKids there would be no means testing, no outreach problems, and the program would exist as the ultimate safety net of health insurance for all children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics appreciates your sponsorship of this important legislation and your commitment to ensuring that children and adolescents in this country receive the health coverage they need and deserve. We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David T. Tayloe, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

David T. Tayloe, Jr., MD, FAAP
President