

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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May 8, 2007

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fortney H. "Pete" Stark  
United States House of Representatives  
289 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Rockefeller and Congressman Stark:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 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 2007.

The Academy is pleased to support this important legislation. Not only does the legislation embody key Academy principles, but it also creates health insurance coverage for the 10 million uninsured children and adolescents in this country. Our national policy must be that children receive quality health care insurance. MediKids achieves this and we hope to work with you to address the unique quality measurement needs of children and the payment rates put forth by the legislation.

As pediatricians, we recognize the importance of health care coverage for every child and the Academy is committed to attaining optimal health for all children. Your legislation would help achieve this goal by taking the important step of automatically enrolling children in the MediKids program at birth. Children will greatly benefit from MediKids' automatic enrollment, comprehensive benefits, and seamless coverage regardless of their parent's 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 black ink that reads "Jay E. Berkelhamer".

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP  
President

JB: rth

