



33 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06510
Voice: 203-498-4240
Fax: 203-498-4242
www.ctkidslink.org

March 13, 2009

Dear President-Elect Obama:

As you no doubt heard directly from voters during the election season, families across Connecticut are increasingly anxious about health care and are eager to see the new Administration and Congress keep their pledge to enact reforms that will ensure that every American has access to affordable and stable health insurance coverage and high-quality health care.

With rising premiums far out-pacing wages, everyone is feeling the effects. Family premiums for health coverage have increased 30 percent since 2001, while income has increased just three percent. Businesses that offer health insurance see it in their bottom lines, and family budgets are being strained by rising out-of-pocket costs. For the small businesses that can't offer coverage and individuals who do not have coverage, the possibilities of obtaining coverage grow ever dimmer.

The recent downturn in the economy has compounded these problems. Chief among people's economic worries are the health and well being of their families. They fear not being able to take their child to the doctor or get the medications they need to stay healthy and take care of their loved ones.

Fixing the economy and reforming our health care system must be inextricably linked. Polling data collected prior to the election asked likely voters to rank policy ideas based on how effective they would be at improving the current economic situation, and the top two answers were reducing health care costs and providing health care to all Americans.

As we move into a new presidential administration and Congress, our leaders must work together to find common-ground policies to provide coverage to all Americans.

We therefore, urge you to make comprehensive health reform one of the top domestic priorities in your administration. Connecticut's children, businesses, seniors, people with disabilities and families are counting on action and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Connecticut Voices for Children

Center for Children's Advocacy

Charter Oak Health Center, Inc.

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut
Community Health Center, Inc.
Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington
Community Health Services, Inc.
Connecticut Association of Human Services
Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ
Connecticut Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Connecticut Hospital Association
Connecticut Legal Services
Connecticut Lifespan Respite Coalition
East Hartford Community HealthCare, Inc.
Fair Haven Community Health Center, Inc.
Family-to-Family Health Information Network
Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Hill Health Corporation
Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut
National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter
New Haven Legal Assistance Association
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut
Southwest Community Health Center, Inc.
StayWell Health Center, Inc.

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital