



August 1, 2007

VIA FAX

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

The United Steelworkers union (USW), on behalf of our 850,000 members is calling on congressional leaders to improve health coverage for low income children, seniors and people with disabilities by supporting the Children's Health Protections Act of 2007 (CHAMP).

The CHAMP Act would reduce the number of children without health insurance in the United States by providing \$50 billion in new funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) ensuring coverage of almost seven million additional low-income children who would otherwise be uninsured. Another important aspect of the CHAMP Act is the flexibility states would have to set income eligibility thresholds as well as predictable funding.

If SCHIP is forced to operate under the Administration's proposed \$5 billion increase over the next five years, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the program will cut as many as 100,000 children from the rolls because of rising health costs. And in fact, some health care experts predict even more than 100,000 children would lose coverage under the Administration's proposal.

The House plan offsets SCHIP costs by reducing subsidies to Medicare Advantage Plans and increasing the tobacco tax.

The CHAMP Act also uses the offset from Medicare Advantage Plans to fund other improvements in Medicare such as new preventive health benefits for Medicare recipients and expanded benefits under the Low Income Subsidy for drug coverage for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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UNION LABEL 3057

These improvements for Medicare and the reauthorization and enhancement of SCHIP are essential to the well being of millions of Americans young, old and handicapped. To do any less would be a lost opportunity. We strongly urge you to support the CHAMP Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly R. Hart".

Holly R. Hart
Legislative Director

HRH/ctl