

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

**For Release:** May 4, 2009

**Contact:** Erin Howard (202-724-3303, [ehoward@aap.org](mailto:ehoward@aap.org))

## **Press Statement**

**on**

### **INTRODUCTION OF MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2009**

By David T. Tayloe Jr., MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which represents 60,000 pediatricians, applauds Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) for his introduction of the *Medikids Health Insurance Act of 2009*, a bill that would create a streamlined and comprehensive system to achieve the goal of health insurance for all children.

“The Academy supports the Medikids Health Insurance Act because it represents the gold standard of care for access to affordable, quality care for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Medikids makes coverage automatic and promotes equity, family responsibility, choice, and age-appropriate benefits. Key provisions include:

- Default enrollment for every child at birth and guaranteed coverage through age 23.
- Elimination of eligibility based on family income—unlike Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Public/private partnership with choice for parents to keep private or other coverage.
- Automatic coverage of children’s health insurance needs during any lapse in private or public coverage.
- Child-specific and age-appropriate benefits based on pediatric medical necessity standards.
- Improved payment for physician services, with reimbursement rates, at minimum, equal to Medicare rates.
- Simplification of the administrative process by decreasing complex billing procedures.

“The American Academy of Pediatrics is proud to support Senator Rockefeller in the introduction of this bill. The time is right to make the health and well being of America’s children a national priority. Providing health care security to children is achievable, affordable, and necessary. The Academy calls on Congress to pass this legislation as soon as possible.”

###

*The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.*