



News Release

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PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS JOINS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH ADVOCATES TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S NEEDS WITHIN HEALTH CARE REFORM

Washington, DC—David Tayloe, Jr., MD, FAAP, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, joined today with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, singer & Co-Founder of the Children's Health Fund (CHF) Paul Simon, President & Co-Founder of the CHF Dr. Irwin Redlener, CHF Advisory Council Chair Jane Pauley and National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) President Larry McAndrews to encourage support of children's unique needs within health reform.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, which represents 60,000 pediatricians, encouraged Congressional leaders not to let children's needs become a casualty of compromises in health reform legislation. The Academy believes that the life success of every child should be the nation's highest priority, and as such, that all children deserve comprehensive, affordable and coordinated health care coverage in a medical home.

"If we do not address the basic health needs of our children, then we as a nation have failed," Dr. Tayloe said during today's event. "We need to do this not just for our children, but because a focus on children is the foundation of a health system that works. In this economic environment, we are all looking for cost containment. There is no better way to do that than to invest early in a healthy citizenry. There's strong evidence that investing in children during the earliest years of their lives yields very high returns. So, when we talk about real health care reform that will benefit this country in the long-term, we cannot forget to address the real needs of children."

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports health care reform that provides:

- Health insurance coverage for all children;
- Age-appropriate benefits in a medical home, and
- Reasonable payment to assure real access to services.

"It is time to put partisanship aside; it is time to do right by our children and invest in the future of this country," Tayloe said. "It is time to pass real health care reform."

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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.