Health Coverage for All Children: 
What Must Be Included in National Health Care Reform Legislation

Every step we take to improve the lives of children and families strengthens America. Our nation’s future -- especially our economic security -- requires real health care reform for everyone in America in 2009. To make President Obama’s promise of coverage for all children in America a reality in 2009, health care reform must incorporate the following changes system-wide:

1. **Coverage Must Be Affordable**: Establish a national eligibility floor of 300 percent of the federal poverty level for all children and pregnant women, with an affordable sliding scale buy-in above that level.

2. **Children and Pregnant Women Must Have Access to Comprehensive Benefits**: Guarantee every child and pregnant woman timely access to all medically necessary services and products to maximize health and development with:
   - Emphasis on prevention and early detection and treatment
   - No pre-existing condition exclusion or waiting period
   - Appropriate post-partum coverage
   - Quality, age-appropriate providers in their communities
   - Culturally and linguistically appropriate services to ensure families receive the care for which they are eligible.
   - Protection of access to care regardless of race, ethnicity or national origin.

3. **The System Must Be Simple, Seamless and Equitable**: To ensure children get enrolled and stay enrolled:
   - A short, simple, understandable application form must be uniformly used and barriers such as asset tests, waiting lists, and other barriers that delay or limit enrollment must be prohibited.
   - Automatic enrollment: All opportunities to identify and enroll children should be utilized, including at birth, enrollment in school, participation in child-serving programs and in health settings.
   - Presumptive eligibility: An uninsured child should be presumed eligible for coverage at point of service.
   - Twelve-month continuous enrollment with automatic renewal: Children’s coverage should be guaranteed for a full year regardless of family income changes and renewal processes, including verification of income, must utilize all available technology to minimize burdens on families.