



CALIFORNIANS FOR HEALTHY KIDS 2007 EFFORT TO COVER ALL KIDS



What is Californians for Healthy Kids?

Californians for Healthy Kids is an effort led by the 100% Campaign (a collaborative of Children Now, Children's Defense Fund, and The Children's Partnership) and PICO California, with more than 250 organizations in support of ensuring that all our state's children have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage.

The Challenge

With 93% of California children already covered, we are close to finishing the job. However, approximately 763,000 are still uninsured. Without insurance, these children lack access to the essential health care they need to grow up healthy and succeed in school.

The Goal

Californians for Healthy Kids proposes that in 2007 California must develop a sustainable, statewide system so that every child in our state, regardless of immigration status, has access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance. This system should include:

- A state program expansion for all children with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$62,000 for a family of four in 2007);
- Availability of affordable insurance options for higher income uninsured children;
- Enrollment simplifications so that all eligible children can easily enroll and keep coverage;
- Sufficient and sustainable funding in FY 2007-08 and on an on-going basis;
- Continued access to affordable coverage for children eligible for local coverage initiatives during the transition to the newly expanded statewide system; and
- Safeguards to ensure that safety-net providers can continue to provide quality care for children in need of their services.

Achieving the Goal

Californians for Healthy Kids strongly supports the efforts of Governor Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders to achieve comprehensive health reform in California that would provide affordable health care access to all Californians. Consistent with those efforts, Californians for Healthy Kids is working with these leaders so that coverage for all children is a central component of any reform plan that moves forward this year. We are also sponsoring statewide legislation, AB 1 (Laird & Dymally) and SB 32 (Steinberg), which would achieve affordable, comprehensive coverage for all children. Finally, we are coordinating both grassroots and media campaigns to mobilize all Californians who support kids' coverage.

Please join us by visiting www.caforhealthykids.org
or contacting the 100% Campaign at 916-443-1869 or PICO California at 916-447-7959 x11.



CALIFORNIANS FOR HEALTHY KIDS

COVERING ALL KIDS: HOW YOU CAN HELP



With nearly 93% of children in California already insured, we are close to finishing the job of covering all kids. However, 763,000 children are still uninsured. We can finish the job in 2007, but we need your help.

Here's what you can do:

- ✓ **Support the Goals of Californians for Healthy Kids.**
Log on to www.100percentcampaign.org/issues/cahealthykids/cahealthykids-endorseform.htm to read the goals and sign on in support.
- ✓ **Sign Up for the Californians for Healthy Kids Electronic Newsletter.**
Visit www.100percentcampaign.org/subscribe.htm to subscribe and get periodic updates on the effort to cover all kids and information on how you can help.
- ✓ **Write Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds in Your Local Newspaper.**
Whenever you see a story about children's health insurance, let other readers know that covering all children is the right thing to do.
- ✓ **Write or Call the Governor and Your State Legislators.**
Let them know that you support covering all children.
 - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-445-4633
Email: www.govmail.ca.govTo find your state Senator or Assemblymember, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html
- ✓ **Ask Your Friends and Colleagues to Join the Effort.**
- ✓ **Visit www.caforhealthykids.org to Learn More.**

For assistance and more ideas for how you can help ensure that all California children have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance, contact Alani Cridge, 100% Campaign, at 916-443-1869, acridge@childrennow.org or Rebecca Stark, PICO California, at 916-447-7959 x11, rebecca@picocalifornia.org.

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Legislative & Media List – Riverside County

Senate

Bob Dutton (SD-31) (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties)

- **Champion Newspapers:** theforum@championnewspapers.com, 350 word count limit
- **The Grizzly and Life:** Mr. Bowers, jbowers@bigbeargrizzly.net, unknown word count
- **Hesperia Star:** editor@hesperiarstar.com, 500 word count max
- **Palo Verde Valley Times:** editor@paloverdevalleytimes.com
- **The Californian:** calopinion@californian.com, 500 word count max
- **Daily Press:** Steve Williams, swilliams@vvdailypress.com, unknown word count
- **Inland Valley Daily Bulletin:** Mike Brossart, m_brossart@dailybulletin.com, 750 word count max
- **Press Enterprise:** Gale Hammons, ghammons@pe.com, unknown word count
- **The Sun:** Carolyn Schatz, carolyn.schatz@sbsun.com, unknown word count

Assembly

1. **Bonnie Garcia (AD-80)** (Indio, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, El Centro, Calexico, La Quinta, Coachella, Brawley, Desert Hot Springs, Blythe, Imperial, Calipatria, Holtville, Westmorland)
 - **Desert Post Weekly:** letters@desertpostweekly.com, no word count limit
 - **Holtville Press:** holtvillenews@aol.com, no word count limit
 - **Imperial Valley Press:** editor@ivpressonline.com, no word count limit
2. **Bill Emerson (AD-63)** (Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, Redlands, San Bernardino, Highland, Loma Linda, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Yucaipa, Moreno Valley, Riverside)
 - **Inland Empire Community Papers:** Iecn1@mac.com, unknown word count limit
 - **Redlands Daily Facts:** editor@redlandsdailyfacts.com and jfolmer@redlandsdailyfacts.com
 - **Westside Story Newspaper:** mail@westsidestorynewspaper.com, unknown word count limit

A Concerned Parent

As a parent and active member of the PTA, I care deeply about the health, education and safety of my child and other children in the community. When I meet with other parents inside and outside of the classroom, I have noticed lately that everyone seems to be concerned about ensuring health care for Californian children.

I have long believed that change is needed in our health care system and that a crucial part of that change should be to cover all children. It is our responsibility to ensure their health and well being in the home, school and community, so providing access to basic health care is critical.

Children with health insurance are simply healthier. It has also been shown that children with health insurance perform better in school because they are better able to concentrate and focus when healthy. They tend to miss less school due to health problems such as asthma and dental disease. Furthermore, one child's health affects all children because our kids are in close contact in the classroom, on the playground, and on the bus.

When I talk with other parents, the most pressing issue seems to be the health of our children. It is our responsibility to support and speak on behalf of our children in the schools, in the community, and before legislators and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

State legislators should consider the voices of those who care for kids – teachers, parents and physicians – when they think about reforming our health care system. They need to make sure to take care of our children, and the time to move is now.

Word count: 275

**Californians for Healthy Kids
Sample Letter to the Editor**

In Response to Article About Health Reform

Sample Letter

Dear Editor,

In response to (INSERT TITLE HERE)...

I believe that any meaningful health care reform plan must include covering all children.

With 763,000 uninsured children in California, the time is now to make health coverage a reality.

The benefits of providing coverage to all children is clear – children are healthier, they perform better academically and it benefits our community.

Children require ongoing preventive care - immunizations and routine visits are essential to healthy development. Preventive care also reduces illness before it progresses and becomes more serious.

Unhealthy children miss more school days, are less attentive and have more difficulty learning. A healthy child is better able to focus in the classroom enabling them to perform better in school.

Ensuring children access to health care will also reduce parents' absenteeism rates and loss of productivity, which will benefit the business community.

It is obvious that health coverage for children should be included in any health care reform package. With less than 10 percent of children left to insure and a majority of voters agreeing that all children in California should have health coverage, the time is right to achieve this goal.

Instructions for Submitting Letters to the Editor

1. Respond to a particular article. While not necessary, the paper will be more likely to publish your letter if it is in response to a previously published article.
2. Respond within 48 hours of the story you are responding to being published.
3. Check newspaper's web site to find out:
 - how to submit, such as through email or fax.
 - word limit on letters the newspaper accepts (The sample above has been created to allow for deletion of paragraphs without changing the letter's meaning.)
4. The letter should come directly from the person who is signing.
5. You may want to insert something personal – why you care about kids health - or data/issues specific to your area.
6. Include your contact information, including name, title, organization, address (or city and state) and contact phone number.

**Californians for Healthy Kids
Sample Letter to the Editor**

In Response to Article About Health Coverage for Undocumented Children

Sample Letter

Dear Editor,

IN RESPONSE TO (INSERT TITLE HERE)...

In recent statewide polls, a strong majority of voters continue to say that all children should have health coverage, regardless of immigration status.

Kids with health insurance are more likely to get the care they need to ensure healthy development, including preventive care, immunizations and basic check-ups – all of which helps identify or prevent problems before they get serious and more costly. In turn, this helps reduce costs on the entire health care system.

While some would argue we should not spend our money on health coverage for undocumented children, the reality is that we are already paying for the cost of care for many of these uninsured children. Numerous children have no other recourse than to receive care in an emergency room, the average visit costing \$435. This approach not only costs the state money it also puts our hospital emergency care system and medical safety net at risk, which jeopardizes the health care system for everybody.

And finally, all of our children interact together on the playground and in the classroom. Leaving any segment of children without access to health coverage to keep them healthy could have a negative impact on all of our children.

We must stop using this issue, and a group of children, as a political hot potato and move forward on the wishes of Californians to cover all children.

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