

July 25, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20015

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Rangel:

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) we want to thank you for your leadership in developing the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (CHAMP Act), H.R. 3162.

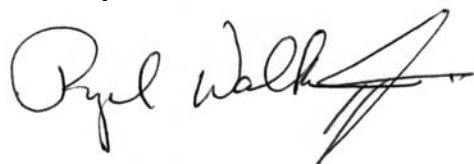
AUCD strongly supports the CHAMP Act. It provides a commitment of \$50 billion to cover children currently on SCHIP and adds additional children. This will significantly reduce the number of uninsured children in America. Improved outreach, enrollment and coverage of additional children will greatly benefit children with disabilities and their families who are more likely to live in poverty and often cannot obtain coverage in the private market.

In addition, there are many other provisions within the bill that will also benefit individuals with disabilities. In particular, we are pleased that language was included to eliminate Medicare Part D cost-sharing for dual-eligible individuals with disabilities who live in community-based settings. Current policy presents severe hardship for many individuals and perpetuates an institutional bias, since these costs do not apply to individuals in nursing homes and other institutions.

We are also very pleased that language was included to establish a moratorium prohibiting HHS from taking any action to restrict coverage or payment for rehabilitation services, school-based administration, transportation, and medical services. This is a significant issue for many individuals with developmental and other disabilities who rely on these services to live in the community.

Overall, AUCD feels the bill represents sound public policy that will benefit children and individuals disabilities and looks forward to working with you on passage.

Sincerely,



Royal Walker, Esq
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