

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Press Statement

on

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE PASSAGE OF AMERICA'S HEALTHY FUTURE 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, pediatric medical subspecialists, and surgical specialists, commends the United States Senate Finance Committee for its vote today on its health reform bill, America’s Healthy Future Act of 2009. The AAP applauds the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (“HELP”) Committee, and all House of Representatives committees for their continued dedication to passing significant health reform legislation.

“While America’s Healthy Future Act of 2009 does make much-needed progress toward achieving health reform, there is still much to be done to ensure this reform gives children access to comprehensive health services provided by their pediatricians.

“For children and pediatric care to truly benefit from health reform, Senate legislation needs to also address age-appropriate benefits, which the current Senate Finance Committee bill does not include. The Academy therefore encourages the Senate to include the following provisions, which are currently in the HELP bill:

- Preventive and well-child services provided for no co-payment as part of a minimum benefit standard in all health insurance exchange plans. Including this benefits package is essential for children and their families to have access to medically necessary preventative services that are age-appropriate.
- A new structure that would support the medical home and strengthen community-based health teams, which provide needed services to families and their children.

“The Senate Finance Committee’s vote today marks a significant step forward in the health reform debate. The Academy urges the Senate to act swiftly and decisively following today’s Finance vote to include the best provisions for children and pediatricians in their final legislation. America’s children should receive the health services they need and deserve as a result of health 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.