

**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE1200 THE PENNSYLVANIA PYRAMID, SUITE 240 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850  
TEL: 301-881-7159 | FAX: 301-881-7159 | WWW.THE-NATIONALCOUNCIL.ORG

LINDA ROSENBERG, MSW, PRESIDENT &amp; CEO | ELIZABETH FARNS, MEd, BOARD CHAIR

September 25, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

On behalf of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, I am writing to thank you for your efforts to reach an agreement on legislation to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The National Council strongly supports the House and Senate's agreement because it directly reflects the service needs of the 2 million children with mental and emotional disorders that our members serve every year.

This legislation reflects a fiscally responsible bipartisan compromise that will extend health coverage to several million uninsured low- and moderate-income children. The National Council is pleased that the legislation strengthens the scope of CHIP benefits to ensure parity between physical and mental health benefits. Currently, many states limit outpatient mental health benefits to 20 visits and inpatient hospital services to 30 days or less, meaning children with more serious mental illnesses do not receive the mental health care they need.

The National Council and its members also applaud the inclusion of a six-month moratorium on new regulations on the Medicaid rehabilitative services option and school-based services. This moratorium will protect these vital services and allow Congress the opportunity to fully consider these complex policy issues and avoid ill-considered policy changes.

We applaud efforts by the Senate and the House of Representatives to expand health insurance coverage to low- and moderate-income children.

Sincerely,

Linda Rosenberg, MSW, CSW  
President and CEO