

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2007

Dear Speaker Madigan and Senate President Jones:

There is a great debate going on across the country on health care. In Washington, Congress will soon be reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a vital federal-state partnership that currently provides health care to six million children. The reauthorization measure will extend health coverage to four million more children who are currently uninsured. Several of the Democratic presidential candidates have already or will soon be releasing their plans to cover the 46 million Americans who are currently uninsured. And across the nation, states from California to Pennsylvania to Wisconsin are considering health care legislation to cover all of its residents. Republican and Democratic Governors and legislators are working together to expand access to health coverage. We are proud that Illinois is among the states where legislative proposals are pending on health care reform, and we thank Governor Blagojevich for pushing for immediate action.

As you are aware, there are 1.4 million Illinoisans who are currently uninsured. Millions more are in working families whose coverage is inadequate, either because of gaps in benefits or unaffordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles. This means that people are foregoing preventative medical care, thereby driving up the costs of care and diminishing their quality of life. Many Illinoisans live in fear that an accident or illness will wipe out their savings and destroy their lives. Small businesses are being forced to reduce benefits, or drop coverage all together, because of rising premiums.

Right now, the Illinois General Assembly has the opportunity to take bold steps on health care. Our state has a strong history of being a leader in making health care affordable and accessible to its citizens. Before your legislative session concludes it is important that the General Assembly takes the necessary steps to reform the Illinois health care system to address cost growth and provide coverage for the working uninsured.

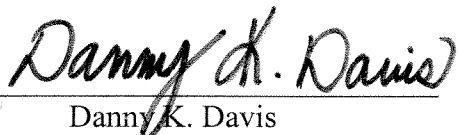
Sincerely,



Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator



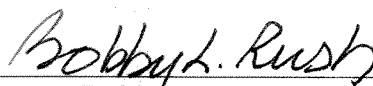
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Phil Hare  
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress