

**THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**
OF THE UNITED STATES

July 12, 2005

The Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chafee:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, I would like to offer our strong support for the "Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA)," S.1104.



ICHIA, which has broad bipartisan support, would give states the option of covering legal immigrant children and pregnant women with federal Medicaid and SCHIP funding during their first five years in the country. As you know, current law prohibits states from providing such coverage, without which patients are likely to develop preventable health complications. In addition to causing needless suffering, the long-term effects of inadequate health care services can prevent children, many of whom will become United States citizens, from making a full economic contribution as they grow into adulthood. The long-term health benefits of investing in prenatal care are well established, and we believe it is arbitrary to deny such care to lawfully present pregnant women simply because they arrived after a certain date, particularly when their children will be United States citizens at birth.

The Catholic health ministry represents a broad spectrum of providers who deliver important health care services each year to hundreds of thousands of lawfully present but uninsured immigrant families, including children and pregnant women. Until Congress takes action to address the arbitrary cut-off date for legal immigrants to receive federal health care coverage through Medicaid and SCHIP, caring for legal immigrants will continue to add to the financial burden already facing the nation's safety net providers.

For these reasons, we would like to express our appreciation for your sponsorship of S. 1104, and we look forward to working with your office as this bill makes its way through the Congressional process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Rodgers
Interim President/CEO

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July 12, 2005

**THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**
OF THE UNITED STATES

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, I would like to offer our strong support for the "Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA)," S.1104.



ICHIA, which has broad bipartisan support, would give states the option of covering legal immigrant children and pregnant women with federal Medicaid and SCHIP funding during their first five years in the country. As you know, current law prohibits states from providing such coverage, without which patients are likely to develop preventable health complications. In addition to causing needless suffering, the long-term effects of inadequate health care services can prevent children, many of whom will become United States citizens, from making a full economic contribution as they grow into adulthood. The long-term health benefits of investing in prenatal care are well established, and we believe it is arbitrary to deny such care to lawfully present pregnant women simply because they arrived after a certain date, particularly when their children will be United States citizens at birth.

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