

## Op-Ed Talking Points

- On Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> the House of Representatives introduced the “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009”, which would take an important step forward in providing all Americans with access to high quality care.
- We often talk about not leaving our debts to our children. If we don’t invest in their health now, we will likely do significant damage for years to come.
- For the millions of children and adolescents in the United States not covered by private insurance, Medicaid or CHIP, we need to provide a chance to get age-appropriate health services.
- It has been proven that investing in children during the earliest years of their lives yields very high returns.
- Spending the money to invest in children now by passing a paid-for health reform bill is the right move. Children need to be able to see the blackboard, hear their teacher and pay attention in school free from pain. Health reform can provide all children with access to services to allow them to reach their potential and be productive citizens.
- If Members of the Congress continue to stand in the way of real health care reform, the most vulnerable will not get the services they need.
- We can and we must make it a priority to provide access to quality health care and other essential services that enable the children of today to grow into the healthy, productive, taxpaying adults of tomorrow.
- Enough is enough. It is time to do right by children and pass comprehensive health care reform that includes access to comprehensive, age-appropriate, quality health care in a medical home.
- We should not and cannot squander this opportunity to invest in quality health care for our nation’s children. Not only is it a good investment - it is an essential one.