

October 16, 2007

Dear Member of the Indiana Delegation:

Very soon you will be casting critical votes affecting the health and well-being of people in Indiana. As Indiana community and faith leaders, service providers, and advocates for meeting human needs, we strongly urge you to vote to invest in healthy children, educated workers, and secure families and seniors.

**First, 69,500 uninsured children in Indiana urgently need you to vote to override the President's veto of the SCHIP bill** (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, H.R. 976). These children and all the others who are now healthier because of SCHIP are depending on your vote. Our children cannot learn and thrive if they do not get the health care they need. We will look to your vote to override the SCHIP veto as a true demonstration of your commitment to our state's children.

**You will also be voting soon on vital domestic appropriations bills**. Please support investments in services that provide our people with opportunity and protect them from harm. The choices before you are stark. We hope the appropriations bills headed towards completion will preserve or expand:

- Head Start, child care, and education from birth through college;
- job training and employment services so our youth and adult workers can get ahead;
- community health centers, maternal and child health services, rural health, and mental health programs;
- services to address family violence, juvenile justice, and the prevention of child abuse or neglect;
- nutrition help for children (Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program) and the elderly (Commodity Supplemental Food Program);
- services to strengthen communities through the Community Services Block Grant; and
- affordable housing and home energy assistance to provide stability for low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families.

Vetoes threatened by the President are aimed at cutting these services. We strongly urge you to vote for domestic appropriations bills including Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation-HUD, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Agriculture, and to override such destructive vetoes.

So much is at stake for Indiana. The President wants to force appropriations back down to levels that would for the seventh year in a row cut services for Indiana's communities and families. Instead, your votes should invest in Indiana's future. The House-passed appropriations bill would allow 339 more children in Indiana to receive Head Start than under the President's plan. Similarly, House appropriations would provide funds for 242 more teachers than the President's plan, and would allow \$109 more special education funding for each child with disabilities in Indiana. Although 274,059 households have trouble putting enough food on the table in Indiana, a Presidential veto would be aimed at preventing 5 new states from being part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and still worse, would stop 4,500 elderly now participating in Indiana from receiving food packages. We hope the House version of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is adopted. In marked contrast, despite soaring energy prices, a veto could mean 32,700 fewer Indiana households will get the help they need to pay their utilities in 2008 than in 2001.

Our neighbors, our children, and the communities we live in and serve all count on you to vote for critically important investments and to reject the cuts the President's vetoes would require. We believe these votes – for SCHIP and human needs appropriations – are among the most important you will cast.

Sincerely,

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, West Lafayette  
 Anabaptist Center for Health Care Ethics, Goshen  
 Anchor House, Inc., Seymour  
 Arc BRIDGES, Valparaiso  
 Arc BRIDGES, Inc., Gary  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana  
 Campaign for Hoosier Families, Lafayette  
 Children's Bureau, Inc., Indianapolis  
 Code Pink, Highland  
 Community Action of Northeast Indiana  
 Community Addiction Services of Indiana, Indianapolis  
 Community Addiction Services of Indiana, Avon  
 Community Health and Wellness Center/WIC, Bedford  
 Community Reinvestment Project of East Chicago, Inc.  
 Damar Services, Inc. Outpatient Clinic, Indianapolis  
 Daughters of Charity East Central Province, Evansville  
 Easter Seals Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, Indianapolis  
 Elkhart County WIC Program, Goshen  
 Family Health & Help Center, Rockville  
 Gary Community School Corporation  
 Goshen College Social Work Education, Elkhart  
 Henry County United Fund  
 IARCCA (Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies)  
 Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition  
 Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church  
 Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc.  
 Indiana Coalition for Human Services  
 Indiana Community Action Association  
 Indiana School Social Work Association  
 Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council  
 Joint Education Services in Special Education (JESSE), Plymouth  
 LaGrange County WIC Program  
 Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.  
 MJB Contracting, Fort Wayne  
 Neighbors Organized To Assist Humanity, Indianapolis  
 Old National Trail Special Services Cooperative, Greencastle  
 Pax Christi USA, Logansport  
 Pax Christi USA, Fort Wayne  
 Pax Christi USA, Pekin  
 Pax Christi USA, Romney  
 Social Concerns, St Thomas Aquinas, West Lafayette  
 South Bend Center for the Homeless  
 South Bend Community School Corporation  
 St. John the Apostle Church, Evansville  
 St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church, Fishers  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society, Newburgh

The Center for the Homeless, South Bend  
The Child Care Consortium, Inc., Michigan City  
Trafalgar Family Health Center, Trafalgar  
Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Lizton  
United Way of Allen County  
United Way of Central Indiana  
United Way of Delaware County  
United Way of Madison County  
United Way of Porter County  
United Way of Southwestern Indiana  
United Way of Wells County, Inc.  
White's Residential and Family Services, Wabash  
YWCA Elkhart County  
YWCA Marion  
YWCA Evansville  
YWCA Fort Wayne