Easter Seals

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Easter Seals is writing in strong support of the Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R. 3962. We believe access to appropriate and high quality health care services is essential for people with disabilities to live, learn and work and play in their communities.

The goal of health care reform is to assure that all people with access to quality, affordable health care and long term services and supports that meet their individuals needs. It is through these types of changes to the health care system that we can hope to enable all Americans, including people with disabilities and chronic conditions, to be healthy, functional, live as independently as possible and participate in their communities.

In particular, Easter Seals is strongly in favor of the proposed changes to the insurance market that would provide guaranteed issue and guaranteed renewal in the individual and small markets as well as prohibiting the use of pre-existing health condition exclusions. These changes would have the effect of opening these markets for people with disabilities to get and keep quality insurance coverage.

A major part of the health care reform effort is to try to close the gaps in unmet needs. One of the primary unmet needs for people with disabilities and chronic conditions is access to long term services and supports. The inclusion of the CLASS Act in health care reform is a meaningful step toward meeting the needs of people with disabilities and chronic conditions so that they may function as independently as possible with their families, in their homes and in their communities.

Easter Seals thanks you for all of your efforts on health care reform. We look forward to working with you as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,

Katherine Beh Neas

Katherine Beh Neas
Vice President, Government Relations