



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Leigh Ann Bradley  
703-548-0019

## **Statement by the National Patient Advocate Foundation on President Obama's Decision to Extend Health Coverage to Four Million Uninsured Children**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 5, 2009)** – The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) – a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of creating avenues of improved patient access to health care through public policy reform at the state and federal levels – today praised Congress for passing and President Obama for signing the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which will extend health coverage to four million uninsured American children. SCHIP currently covers more than six million children whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but who can't afford private insurance. The bill approved by Congress and the President will expand SCHIP by nearly \$32 billion over five years.

"This is a great step in the right direction. The provision of quality health care remains a chief issue, particularly for our children," said Nancy Davenport-Ennis, Founder and CEO of NPAF. "NPAF commends Congress and the President for supporting this critical legislation, and we stand ready and committed to work together to continue making real changes in 2009 and beyond to achieve affordable access to quality care for all Americans."

President Obama has made it known that he understands the challenges American families are facing as they find themselves unable to afford or access health care. As he signed this historic legislation, President Obama made a powerful statement explaining its importance: "We're not a nation that leaves struggling families to fend for themselves, especially when they've done everything right. No child in America should be receiving his or her primary care in the emergency room in the middle of the night. No child should be falling behind at school because he can't hear the teacher or see the blackboard."

NPAF and its companion organization, the Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), were founded on the principle that health care is a basic human need and shared social responsibility. NPAF is dedicated to working with Congress and all levels of government to overcome challenges and create solutions that will

allow for progressive, modern, and effective health care for all. PAF directly assists patients with chronic and life-threatening conditions who are struggling with access to care issues. Last year, PAF received more than 9.5 million contacts from patients, of which 48,800 became full patient cases involving professional case management resolution.

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For more information see [www.npaf.org](http://www.npaf.org).