



# NATIONAL PATIENT ADVOCATE FOUNDATION

*A National Network for Healthcare Reform*

March 2007

Nancy Davenport-Ennis  
Chief Executive Officer

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Roy A. Beveridge, MD  
Immediate Past Board President  
Co-Director, Stem Cell Transplant Center  
Inova Fairfax Hospital

William T. McGivney, PhD  
Board President  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Edward G. Connette, Esquire  
Board Vice-President  
Lesne & Connette

John L. Murphy  
Board Financial Officer  
Partner QIAN Capital, LLC

Leo E. Sands  
Board Financial Officer  
Executive Vice President & Chief  
Administrative Officer  
U.S. Oncology

Christian Downs, MHA, JD  
Board Financial Officer  
Deputy Executive Director  
Association of Community Cancer Centers

Leah Arnett, RN, BSN, CCM, CLNC  
Board Secretary  
Nursing Director, University Health Services  
University of Texas at Austin

Bruce Avery, MD  
Hematology-Oncology Knoxville  
Richard D. Carter, Esquire  
Carter & Coleman

John H. Ennis, Jr., Co-Founder  
Executive Vice President

The Honorable Patrick Dougherty  
Missouri State Senate

Dianne Lamb  
Patient Advocate

The Honorable Phil Hamilton  
Virginia House of Delegates

Sheldon Weinhaus, Esquire  
Advisor of Counsel to the firm of Weinhaus,  
Dobson, Goldberg & Moreland

## SCIENTIFIC BOARD

Otis W. Brawley, MD  
Professor, Emory School of Medicine  
Emory University

Dennis A. Gastineau, MD  
Director, Human Cell Therapy Laboratory  
Divisions of Transfusion Medicine  
and Hematology,  
Mayo Clinic

Robert M. Rifkin, MD, FACP  
Director, Rocky Mountain Blood  
& Marrow Transplant Program  
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers

F. Marc Stewart, MD  
Medical Director, SCCA  
Professor of Medicine  
University of Washington  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Richard L. Theriault, DO, MBA  
Professor of Medicine  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Lori Williams, RN, MSN, DSN®, OCN, AOCN  
MD Anderson Cancer Center & University of  
Texas Houston School of Nursing

## HONORARY BOARD

The Honorable Mary T. Christian

Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer  
Oncology Nursing Society

Paula Trahan-Rieger  
Director of International Affairs  
American Society of Clinical Oncology

Doris Simonson

## RE: HCR 25—Reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program

The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) commends the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives for adopting House Concurrent Resolution 25, which urges the Indiana Congressional Delegation to support the 2007 reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Reauthorization of SCHIP will preserve the gains made in children's health since its inception in 1997 and can help provide the health security needed by the nation's children.

The number of uninsured adults in the United States grew from 30.2 to 36.5 million between 2000 and 2004 while the number of uninsured children declined from 9.4 to 9 million during the same period, demonstrating successful approaches to covering children even as employer-sponsored health insurance declined for families. Unfortunately, nine million children were still uninsured in 2005.<sup>1</sup>

To preserve and strengthen SCHIP, many states have simplified income eligibility and renewal procedures and no state in 2006 cut income eligibility.<sup>2</sup>

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), as of fiscal year 2005, SCHIP covered approximately 6 million enrollees including about 639,000 adults, with about 4 million enrollees in June of that year. In the beginning of fiscal year 2007, Congress acted to redistribute unused SCHIP allotments from fiscal year 2004 to states projected to face shortfalls in fiscal year 2007. Funding issues continue to burden the maximization of SCHIP as states seek to maintain coverage of enrolled children and look forward to continuing to enroll newly eligible children.<sup>3</sup> The GAO's report can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07501t.pdf>.

Addressing SCHIP's current federal funding formula challenges, such as determining state allotments to include the numbers of children already enrolled in SCHIP as well as the number currently uninsured, will improve the fiscal power and impact of the program to help the most children in need. Reauthorization must go forward with these challenges addressed.

For specific detail about issues and changes necessary for SCHIP Reauthorization, please see the excellent information provided by the University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/SCHIPPolicy\\_ExecSumm\\_Feb07.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/SCHIPPolicy_ExecSumm_Feb07.pdf).

National Patient Advocate Foundation is dedicated to improving access to care through legislative and policy reform at both the state and federal levels. NPAF advocacy activities are influenced by the experience of the patients served through our companion organization, Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF). PAF provides case management services directly to patients at no charge to help resolve insurance, job retention, and/or debt crisis matters relative to a serious diagnosis. In 2006, over 6 million Americans contacted Patient Advocate Foundation with a request for assistance. We invite you to review the NPAF and PAF websites to learn more about both organizations: [www.npaf.org](http://www.npaf.org) and [www.patientadvocate.org](http://www.patientadvocate.org).

On behalf of NPAF's Advocates Network volunteers in Indiana, and NPAF's State Government Affairs, thank you for your efforts to expand access to healthcare for children. If we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact NPAF State Government Affairs at 866-706-4977.

<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and Urban Institute: Estimates, based on the March Current Population Surveys, 2001–2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ross, Cox, and Marks. *Resuming the Path to Health Coverage for Children and Parents: A 50 State Update on Eligibility Rules, Enrollment and Renewal Procedures, and Cost-Sharing Practices in Medicaid and SCHIP in 2006*. Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> GAO-07-501T, Children's Health Insurance: States' SCHIP Enrollment and Spending Experiences and Considerations for Reauthorization; a testimony before the Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy and Commerce. House of Representatives, February 15, 2007.