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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Mark B. Childress
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Jeanne M. Lambrew, PhD
Deputy Assistant to the President for Health Policy
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. Childress and Dr. Lambrew:

I write today to urge you to ensure that the forthcoming regulation on the essential health benefits package sufficiently addresses the unique nature of standalone dental plans that include pediatric coverage.

The Affordable Care Act included a requirement that pediatric dental benefits be covered as an "essential health benefit," which will ensure that millions of children will have access to appropriate dental care. However, further clarification is needed to guarantee that standalone dental plans sold outside the Exchanges will be considered sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the essential health benefits package.

Approximately 97 percent of dental policies are sold separately from medical policies, and a lack of clarity on this issue will prove disruptive for families and businesses across the Nation. Medical plans are not equipped to cover pediatric dental care, and adding this new element would be duplicative of the standalone dental plans that families are already purchasing.

As the Administration finalizes the regulation on essential health benefits, I respectfully request that this clarification be included.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator