



105 Chauncy St. #901
Boston, MA 02111
www.miracoalition.org
Voice: 617.350.5480
Fax: 617.350.5499

January 14, 2008

Honorable Senator John F. Kerry
304 Russell Senate Building
Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), I would like to thank you for your past support of immigrant communities in the Commonwealth and across the nation. Not only have you been a supporter, but you have led on numerous issues of great importance to the country's newcomers.

As the 111th Congress begins its work, MIRA would like to thank you for your support of the inclusion of legal immigrant children and pregnant women in the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Through your leadership and support of health care benefits for low-income, legally present immigrant children and pregnant women, you have shown an understanding that five years is a lifetime for any child to be without access to quality and stable care.

Your support as a member of the Senate Finance Committee is even more crucial. Please urge your colleagues in the Finance Committee to vote in favor of the amendment that would remove the 5-year bar and include legal immigrant children and pregnant women in the Senate SCHIP reauthorization bill, a vote that will help ensure a healthy foundation for future U.S. citizens, voters, and leaders.

Moreover, we ask that you work actively with your Finance Committee colleagues to ensure that no anti-immigrant amendments are included in the bill that would place additional barriers between legal immigrant children and pregnant women and their access to health care.

As we approach Tuesday's inauguration and the change that it represents, we applaud your consistent leadership and courage in standing up for immigrant communities in Massachusetts and across the country, and for helping to ring in a new era of government with a commitment to the health and well-being of all our nation's children.

Sincerely,

Eva A. Millona
Executive Director
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Supported by the

