



**For Immediate Release
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**More than 4,500 Americans Endorse Health Reform for Kids,
900 Post Testimonials to *Speak Now for Kids* Web Site**

Congressmen and mayors now among those uploading testimonials

(Washington, DC) – In just over a month since its launch, the online campaign *Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform* has compelled more than 4,500 individuals to register their support for including children’s needs in health reform. Twenty percent or 900 of these individuals took the extra step to upload a personal written, photo or video testimonial. Among these testimonials are messages posted by U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip James Clyburn and Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston, SC.

“When we launched the *Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform* campaign just over a month ago, we were very concerned that children were being left out of the health reform debate,” explained Lawrence McAndrews, president and CEO of the National Association of Children’s Hospitals (N.A.C.H.), the campaign’s sponsor. “The campaign has created a steady drumbeat of stories and messages going up to Capitol Hill and we have just begun to see health care policy language that would benefit children if it is included in final legislation.”

The campaign’s Web site www.speaknowforkids.org also includes a brief survey. Of individuals registered on the site who opted to take the survey, more than half indicate that health care coverage for all children (54 percent) is their greatest concern when they think about children and health reform. Nearly 98 percent of survey respondents believe Congress should fulfill President Obama’s campaign pledge to provide health coverage for all children. Survey data as well as testimonials and location of registered individuals can be broken out by state and Congressional district for members of the House and Senate.

“We and our campaign partners, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Children’s Defense Fund, Children’s Health Fund, First Focus and March of Dimes, are pleased to see *Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform* gaining traction as the health care debate heats up,” said McAndrews. “It’s been an uphill battle to get Congress to focus on children since children represent roughly 10 percent of health care spending and just 25 percent of the total population. But from where we sit, kids are 100 percent of the future and if we don’t do something now to take care of their health care needs, then our nation’s future will not be bright as it could be and we may see many more adults in declining health.”

More than 120 children's hospitals and allied organizations have joined the campaign as supporters. To learn more about *Speak Now for Kids in Health Reform*, campaign partners and supporters visit www.speaknowforkids.org.

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The National Association of Children's Hospitals (N.A.C.H.) is the public policy affiliate of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions. Representing more than 140 freestanding acute care children's hospitals, freestanding children's rehabilitation and specialty hospitals, and children's hospitals organized within larger medical centers, N.A.C.H. addresses public policy issues affecting children's hospitals' missions of service to the children of their communities, including clinical care, education, research and advocacy.