



American College Health Association

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid,

On behalf of the members of the American College Health Association (ACHA), who provide comprehensive health care and prevention services to the nation's 18 million college students, we write to convey our sincere thanks and appreciation for the passage of national health reform legislation (H.R. 3962 and H.R. 3590). ACHA applauds the tireless work and continued commitment of Congress to reform our nation's health care system. Long overdue, we share the hope for meaningful change that reduces costs and expands affordable access to health care.

Specifically, ACHA thanks you for provisions in the legislation which will extend dependent children's coverage to 26 years of age. While this will have an obvious beneficial effect for dependent children attending our nation's colleges and universities, a significant and growing number of college students rely on insurance offered by their institutions of higher education. ACHA appreciates that the Senate's version (H.R. 3590) recognized the important role that institutions of higher education play in providing comprehensive and affordable student health insurance as indicated in the Section 1560 Rule of Construction intended to preserve institutions' ability to offer student health insurance plans.

We remain concerned, however, that further clarification is needed to ensure the continuation of Student Health Insurance/Benefits Plans (SHIBPs) as **group**-like plans. The enclosed document outlines that concern and offers suggested language to address the issue. While this language was not included in the Manager's Amendment to the final Senate bill, we respectfully request that the clarification be made, as the final House-Senate bill is developed this month, to amplify what we believe to have been the intent of the Section 1560 Rule of Construction.

Again, we thank you and the Congress for your continued efforts to improve the nation's health. We think that the clarification enclosed would likewise ensure that colleges and universities can continue to play a major role in optimizing health care and health services for the nation. We earnestly hope for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

James C. Turner, MD, FACHA
President
American College Health Association

Doyle Randol, MS, Col. USA (Ret.)
Executive Director
American College Health Association