



MEDIA ADVISORY

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CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND CHILD ADVOCATES HOLD RALLY AT GOOD HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH TO DEMAND THAT TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION DOES NOT LEAVE CHILDREN BEHIND IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

WHAT:

Children, parents, grandparents and other child advocates are taking their walking shoes and baby strollers to Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church to demand that Congress ensure health reform legislation meets the needs of millions of uninsured and underinsured children in Texas.

Dr. Laura Guerra-Cardus, Interim Executive Director of Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Texas, says that the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) earlier this year was a good start, but that **1.5 million uninsured children in Texas** – and thousands more underinsured – are being left behind in health care reform. She says health reform legislation as drafted would not address the significant shortcomings for children of the current health care system, and that's why participants in the stroller brigade will **speak out loudly now while there is still time for Congress to act.**

The Children's Defense Fund and partnering organizations are engaged in an intensive effort with faith leaders, doctors and nurses, educators and others to call upon President Obama and Congress to do three things to ensure the health and well-being of America's children:

- 1. Significantly simplify the enrollment process for publicly funded health insurance**, so that eligible children and their families will be able to easily secure government-sponsored coverage – much like the elderly and Medicare.
- 2. Guarantee that every child receiving publicly funded health insurance has access to the full range of health and mental health benefits**, rather than the current system that, in most states, provides more comprehensive benefits to the children on Medicaid than to the children enrolled in CHIP.
- 3. Ensure coverage is affordable for all children by providing a national health care safety net for all children** whose family income is below 300 percent of poverty, to ensure they receive the health care they need and deserve.

DATE/LOCATION:

Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.
Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
3015 North Macgregor Way, Houston 77004

SPEAKERS:

- **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, 18th District**
- **Dr. D.Z. Cofield, Senior Pastor, Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church**
- **Laura Guerra-Cardus, Interim Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund Texas**
- **Parents of uninsured and underinsured children**

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