



SB13-008 Elimination of the Waiting Period for Children's Eligibility Under the Children's Basic Health Plan

Health insurance status is the most important factor in determining whether a child receives health services when they are needed, according to the Institute of Medicine. **The March of Dimes supports the position that every woman of childbearing age, infant and child should have access to comprehensive affordable health insurance.**

Delaying health insurance coverage affects how people use health care services. The uninsured report a poorer health status, because they are less likely to have a usual source of medical care and likely to forego needed health care coverage.

A three month waiting period for children's eligibility under the children's basic health plan is a barrier to continuity of care and leads to more serious health conditions and associated costly medical expenses.

In 2009, over one-quarter of uninsured children had no usual source of medical care (29.3%), compared only 2.4% of privately insured youngsters and 4.5% of children in public health insurance programs.

At greater risk are newborns. Though uninsured newborns are more likely than insured babies to be sick, they receive fewer hospital services.

March of Dimes urges support of SB13-008, giving children better access to healthcare.

Key Points

Health insurance coverage for children safeguards their health and reduces the need for more costly healthcare.

- Healthcare status is the single most important influence in determining whether healthcare is accessible to children when they need it. (Institute of Medicine)
- Uninsured children are most likely to have no usual source of medical care.
- Uninsured babies are more likely to be sick than insured babies, but receive fewer hospital services.

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