



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Progress is a healthy child

November 24, 2008

The Honorable Bill Harris  
1238 Township Road 1506  
Ashland, OH 44805

Dear President Harris:

As you enter the next year of your term as an Ohio legislator, we all know 2009 will be a demanding year for you as a state leader. I am confident that you will take advantage of your role as an important state government leader to help make a difference for our great state to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Ohio's children's hospitals are **committed to being a national leader in quality of care for our patients**, and we demonstrate this through many initiatives, including a **first-of-its-kind effort to save children's lives** by improving quality in a meaningful, measurable way- the Ohio Children's Hospital Association Quality Improvement Collaborative. I've attached a brief summary of this exciting initiative to my letter, as well as a list of government relations contacts for our hospitals.

Here are a few things you may not know about the patients we serve:

- Every child receives the medical care they need- *regardless* of their family's ability to pay for the care provided.
- More than **1.1 million** Ohio children rely on Medicaid for their health care needs and children account for **53 percent (FY 2005) of the Ohio Medicaid caseload, but a much smaller percentage of the cost.**
- Ohio's **Medicaid program**, a \$13.44 billion (FY 2006) joint federal-state initiative to fund health care services for qualifying low-income individuals, families and children, **is the lifeblood of Ohio's children's hospitals.**
- Medicaid funding falls significantly short of medical service costs. **The Ohio Children's Hospital Association estimates a 2007 net Medicaid program shortfall of \$139 million for our six member hospitals.**

We will be in touch with you as next year's public policy issues unfold, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any potential legislative issues and answer questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me or one of our government relations professionals anytime by either calling (614) 228-2844 or emailing [nlashutka@ohiochildrenshospitals.org](mailto:nlashutka@ohiochildrenshospitals.org).

Additional information about the Ohio Children's Hospital Association can be found by visiting our re-designed website at [www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org](http://www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org).

Warm Regards,

Nick Lashutka  
President, Ohio Children's Hospital Association