

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Closure of Healthy Families Enrollment Threatens Future of California's Children *Board Meeting on Wednesday to Determine Fate of Children's Health Program*

Community Health Councils released the following statement today in advance of Wednesday's hearing on the proposed Healthy Families enrollment freeze.

"Closing the doors to Healthy Families at a time when the program is seeing record-breaking numbers and recently enrolled its 900,000<sup>th</sup> child into the program is irresponsible. Families will be forced to delay care for their children and those with chronic or serious illness or injury will go without necessary medical services.

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB), the California State agency that administers the Healthy Families program, will discuss authorizing a waitlist for new applicants to manage the current year's \$17 million deficit at their monthly Board meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 162,000 children could be added to the waitlist over a six-month period. Enrollment is estimated to drop from 904,000 in November to 787,000 in June 2009. New enrollment will close on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 if the Board opts to implement the waitlist.

It's disappointing that our Governor would fail to stand up for children in this time of crisis. California needs leadership that is willing to make its children their highest priority. Instead of undoing our progress, our leaders must follow through on the job of providing health coverage for all children.

We urge the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board not to impose the wait list on children's coverage. Governor Schwarzenegger and the legislature must keep Healthy Families funded."

*Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization. Established in 1992, CHC's mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, economically-disadvantaged, and underserved populations.*