

**CHIRP hearings set**

Consequential hearings are planned during the Labor Day on the Academy’s Child Health Incentive Reform Plan (CHIRP). The CHIRP bill (S. 376) would require businesses to include children’s preventive care in employee health plans in order for insurance premiums to be considered tax deductible.

While the Academy will serve as the lead witness for CHIRP during the September hearings, other supporters such as the National Education Association and the Children’s Defense Fund also will be invited to testify. Pediatricians who include preventive care for children as part of their standard coverage might take part in the presentations.

“By preventing so many serious, expensive and perfectly unnecessary health problems from ever developing, CHIRP would drastically alter the quality and cost of American health care for years to come,” says Deborah John Chatey (R-R.I.), a member of the Senate Finance Committee and chief sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

Because of their tax-deductible status, group health plans have become the dominant method of financing personal health services in the United States. More than 85 percent of all full-time employees in the nation are covered by some form of private health insurance. Unfortunately, most coverage provided by these plans is aimed at hospitalization, procedures and other acute-care services that contribute directly to soaring health care costs; they discourage preventive care and ultimately hold down health costs.

For the insurance industry, the time has come to consider fundamental redesign of its policies to emphasize preventive care and ultimately hold down health costs.

CHIRP is an ill Congress of Pediatrics offers pre- and post-meetings

- Financial sessions include meetings with AAP
- Fellows invited to Child Psychiatry meeting in San Antonio.
- AAP Research Dept. to host session at Annual Meeting
- Members lend expertise for magazine articles

**Columns**

- Washington Update
- Health Alert
- Chapter Newsletter
- Focus on Practice
- Second Opinions

**Departments**

- Policy Statement
- Handgun control
- Policy Statement Retrospective materials
- Fellows in the news
- Course Calendar

**Executive Director**

- M. Harry Jemison, M.D.
- Director, Division of Communications

- Susan A. Novick, APR
- Tina Panoplos
- Contributing Writer
- Michele Wade

---

**Hib vaccine guidelines explained**

There has been some confusion among pediatricians about when children should receive the Hemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine.

The Academy would like to reaffirm its position which recommends that children receive the one-shot vaccine at 24 months. For those who haven’t received the vaccine by that age, immunization up to the fifth birthday is recommended.

For the Academy’s official policy statement on the Hib vaccine, see the August issue of Pediatrics.