Lawmakers predict health insurance bills will top agenda

By Jodi Feldman
Washington Correspondent

At the start of the 1991 congress-
ional session, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAPP) asked members of Congress who hold key health policy positions to respond to three national health policy questions. Their responses follow.

Other members of Congress were profiled in the February issue of Washington Update. Additional responses will appear in future issues.

Which areas of health policy do you expect Congress will address this ses-

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)
Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health Funding

Increased access to health- and long-
term care will receive increased attention this session. Furthermore, Part II of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (P.L. 99-457) is due for reauthorization along with health education and training programs, the prevention of domestic violence and block grant and other programs of relevance to the health and well-being of children.

Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Nebraska)

This session of Congress promises to be one in which the discussion of basic issues relating to how our nation finances and delivers health care ser-

Rep. Edward Madigan
(R-15th District, Ill.)
Ranking Republican Member of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment (Energy and Commerce Committee)

Note: Rep. Madigan's nomination as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is pending.

The list of child health issues for this Congress is extensive, and will prob-
ably include issues such as legis-
lation that will provide basic health benefits for all Americans; examination and regulation of the small business market for health insurance; regulation of long-term care insurance products; expansion of the beneficiary eligibility in the Medicaid program; and reauthorization of the Health Professions Education program.

Of the many health threats facing tod-

Sen. Harkin

Of the health threats facing children today, those which will most certainly need to be addressed through federal legislation are those which cut across regions, agencies and programs, whether at federal, state or local levels. With an estimated $8 million to 10 mil-

Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-

Conte was the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee that oversees health funding. In the 1980s, Conte worked to increase the NIH budget by nearly 100 per-

The Washington-based Pediatric Anti-

The Pediatric AIDS Coalition has recommended that Congress take action on 41 specific in-

The Pediatric AIDS Coalition con-

A 24 percent increase in overall pediatric AIDS cases and a 40 percent increase in cases among children ages birth to 13 years was reported between 1989 and 1990. An increase among adult AIDS cases. Women and children now represent 12