



For more information contact:
Jeremy LaFaver, Director of Public Policy
Partnership for Children
505.470.8051 or
816.531.9200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2010

Statement from Partnership for Children Regarding Health Insurance Companies No Longer Selling Child-Only Plans

On the eve of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's most popular provision, a few Missouri Insurers have announced their plans to continue to discriminate against sick kids by no longer offering child-only plans. In March of this year, Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) wrote in a letter to secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius that the health insurance industry would work to make pre existing condition exclusions a thing of the past. However, this week several health insurers announced their plans to no longer honor this commitment by not selling policies to children who need them, thus making a business decision on the backs of children.

"Insurance companies, on the whole, want to be good corporate citizens and the new health care provisions that take effect on September 23rd allow them to do that. However, a couple of these companies have decided to no longer honor their commitments to their customers," said Jeremy LaFaver, director of public policy at Partnership for Children. "Discriminating against sick children was one of the practices that the Affordable Care Act sought to put an end to, yet now we're seeing a couple local insurance companies continue the practice through a loop-hole in the new law. It's not fair to children, it's not fair to families, and in the end I think it's going to backfire on them."