



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

October 27, 2005

Dear County DSS Director:

You and I have many of the same concerns as we work to give North Carolina's youngest citizens a healthy life. The lack of health insurance can be an obstacle which can limit access to health care. Government programs like Medicaid and Healthy Choice make a huge difference, but many families do not qualify for government assistance because their incomes are just above the threshold.

When you have to tell a family that they do not qualify for one of those programs, I know you would like to be able to offer them another option. Now a company in the private sector has stepped forward with just that.

You will soon receive a package of brochures from Student Resources, a Division of The MEGA Life and Health Insurance Company, which offers accident insurance to the majority of North Carolina's school districts. They now offer a health insurance plan for K-12 students ages 5 - 18. While this is a limited benefit plan, it represents a great step forward in providing health insurance for children who are presently uncovered.

Like me, you would not endorse a particular product. But I think you will agree with me that North Carolina needs more options in health insurance to make health care accessible to children, and we can be pleased that at least one company is meeting this challenge. I hope other companies will follow suit.

If you have questions about this particular policy you can contact Lawrence Braxton at 800-232-9601 or go to: www.growandplay.com for information. As more companies provide similar coverage options, I will share this information with you.

Thank you for all the great work you are doing in your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Hooker Odom".

Carmen Hooker Odom

