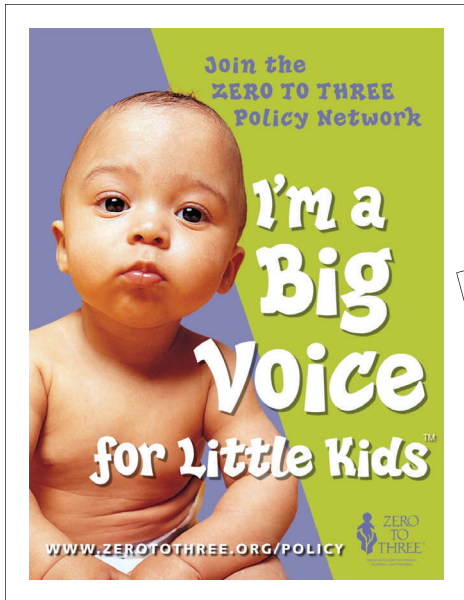


SEPTEMBER 2009

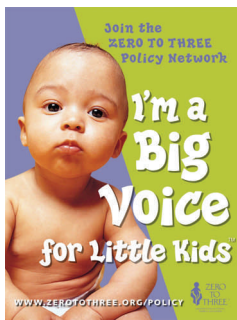


ZERO TO THREE Policy Network Advocacy Developmental Milestone Calendar

Congress is back in session in September and ready to take on health care reform. As your members of Congress return to Washington this month, we challenge you to take action and urge them to make the health needs of parents and very young children a priority.

See page 2 for details! ➔

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Grandparents' Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



SEPTEMBER 2009 ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONE

Take Action Now!

Congress is back in session in September and ready to take on health care reform. As your members of Congress return to Washington this month, they will be working to move health care bills forward in both the House and the Senate. We challenge you to take action and urge them to make the health needs of parents and very young children a priority.

Background

The healthy development of infants and toddlers can be directly impacted by a parent's physical well-being. For example, mothers who lack health insurance are less likely to receive prenatal care,¹ including screenings and diagnostic tests that are instrumental in improving birth outcomes. Once their baby is born, parents who have quality health care are also better able to work and care for their children. If they struggle to pay for medical care and prescriptions for themselves, it leaves their very young children at increased risk for poor health, developmental delays, and food insecurity.² As professionals working with young children, we must ensure that our members of Congress understand the impact that access to affordable health care for ALL family members has on our nation's youngest children!

- ✦ [CLICK HERE](#) to send emails to your members of Congress. We've provided talking points to help you with your message.
- ✦ Be sure to add your own personal story about what health care means to you, the families you work with, and your community, by editing the text in the email message.

Additional Resources

- [Leading the Way to a Strong Beginning: Ensuring Good Physical Health of Our Infants and Toddlers](#) by ZERO TO THREE
- [Affordable Health Care Keeps Children and Families Healthy](#) by Children's HealthWatch

Tell Us About It!

We are eager to hear about your experiences advocating for babies and toddlers, so that we can continue to improve the support we give you as an advocate. After you have completed this month's Advocacy Developmental Milestone challenge, please tell us all about it by [clicking here](#).

¹March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center, "Prenatal Care Overview." March of Dimes, 2008, <http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats>.

²Karen Jeng, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Elizabeth L. March, et. al., "Affordable Health Care Keeps Children and Families Healthy." Children's HealthWatch, 2009, <http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/>.