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Letters to the editor

December 28, 2007

Health for All Kids

When Lisa's dad lost his job and his family's health insurance several months ago, he found two new jobs--both without benefits--and Lisa could not get treatment for her asthma.

Lisa's health worsened, her asthma attacks increased, and her family grew desperate. Fortunately, the family heard about All Kids, the new Illinois program that offers health coverage to every child in the state. With sliding scale premiums and co-payments, All Kids allows Lisa's parents to take their daughter to a doctor on a regular basis, and not the emergency room when a crisis occurs.

There are thousands like Lisa in Cook County. Thanks in large part to the support of State Rep. Harry Osterman, Illinois was the first state in the nation to cover all children. The noise of the current Springfield battles should not obscure the history of cooperation and leadership that produced and maintains the All Kids program, and enables hundreds of families in Cook County to get the care they need, when they need it.

John Bouman, President, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
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