

Children's Defense Fund®

## Healthy Child Campaign

**We know that each child is God's own beloved, created in God's very image and likeness and how we treat each child is how we treat God.**

Deamonte's mother did everything she was supposed to do for her son. But because she could not find a dentist who took children insured by Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Deamonte, a 12 year old boy from Maryland, died because he could not get his tooth extracted.

Devante's mother followed all the rules to get her son enrolled in Texas' Medicaid program. But because of the bureaucracy of the renewal process, Devante had to go four full months without needed treatment for the tumors in his kidneys. Devante died this past March at age 14 from complications of cancer.

Camilla, a 12 year old from New York City, suffers from cystic fibrosis and requires ongoing medical care. Though both her parents work, they cannot afford the buy-in fee for subsidized state health insurance and Camilla's daily medication. When Camilla was asked what she wanted to grow up to be, she replied "Eighteen."

**These are the stories of the nine million children in America suffering and dying without health care. Millions more are underinsured.**

**As people of faith, we must play a prophetic role of calling upon our nation and leaders to take the next logical, achievable and moral step to guarantee comprehensive health and mental health coverage for *all* children in America this year.**

For more information, visit [www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild](http://www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild).

The only way we can expect all our children to live up to their God-given potential is if we live up to our sacred texts and traditions and stand for all these children who have no vote and no choice where or to whom they were born.

As people of faith, we have a moral obligation to God's children to:

- Ensure that ***all*** children and pregnant women have health coverage and access to timely health care.
- Guarantee ***all*** children and pregnant women comprehensive and equal health benefits for all medically necessary services regardless of where they live.
- Simplify enrollment so it's easy for ***all*** children to get and stay covered.

All these principles are only embodied in the *All Healthy Children Act* (H.R. 1688).

### **What you can do for our children...**

- Pray for hope and healing for our all children.
- Visit the Children's Defense Fund website ([www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild](http://www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild)) for more information about the covering all kids, including a Faith Community Toolkit.
- Encourage your faith community to publicly endorse the Children's Defense Healthy Child Campaign's principles necessary to protect and care for ***all*** our children.
- Visit, call, and write your elected officials and encourage them to only support legislation that **guarantees *all* children – not just some children – health coverage with comprehensive benefits and true automatic enrollment so that children get and keep health coverage regardless of where they live.**



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[www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild](http://www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild)