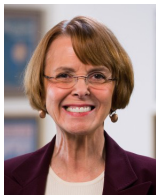


## Child Health

Both through state and federal actions, Iowa has expanded its health coverage for children and is one of the leading states in ensuring all children have health coverage. While the majority of children currently are covered under private health insurance, more than one-third are covered under Medicaid or hawk-i and expansion of these federal-state programs is the reason that child health coverage in Iowa has increased. States are now under substantial financial pressures that could affect their ability to pay their share of Medicaid expenditures. While states are given major responsibility to implement health reform, the federal government remains a critical partner.

*As U.S. Senator, what will you do at the federal level to enable Iowa to provide a child health delivery system – building on or changing Medicaid, CHIP/hawk-i, and IowaCares – that ensures children have access to the primary, preventive, and comprehensive health services they need, including oral health?*



**CONLIN:** Improving access to health care for children is a moral imperative. There is no excuse for the wealthiest nation in the history of the world cannot provide health insurance to its most vulnerable. When health care reform is fully in force, the need for special programs for children may diminish, but it unlikely to disappear. We must ensure that health care is available to children, to only treat their illnesses and maladies as those arise, but to also prevent future illness through preventative care and health education.



**GRASSLEY:** Under health care reform, the Medicaid program will be expanding to become the single largest provider of health care coverage in America. For Medicaid to be an effective and efficient provider of high quality health care services for the people who depend on the program, the federal government will need to provide resources and flexibility to the states that run the program. With many states, including Iowa, facing serious budget challenges this year and into the future, the federal government needs to be extremely careful not to place undue burdens on the states that will force states to choose between funding education, roads and bridges, or law enforcement and providing quality care in Medicaid. If states are not provided adequate resources and flexibility in running the Medicaid program, finding access to a doctor will be a serious challenge in the future for Medicaid recipients.