

# Family Asthma Act (H.R. 4166)

## **Issue:**

The impact of asthma on the well-being of our population and our health care system is significant. More than 20 million Americans, including an estimated 6 million children, suffer from asthma at a cost of \$16 billion a year. To address these rising asthma rates, Representatives Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and Joe Schwarz (R-MI) have introduced the Family Asthma Act of 2005 to improve asthma management and increase our knowledge of asthma care.

## **Background:**

Asthma rates in the United States have more than doubled in the past twenty years and unfortunately, the burden of this illness falls disproportionately on minority groups and underserved populations. The Family Asthma Act will help address these disparities and make significant progress toward reducing asthma suffering among the nation's population.

The key to controlling asthma is proper treatment. Studies have shown that when asthmatic patients are under the care of an allergist, a recognized specialist in asthmatic care, health care costs across the spectrum are lowered. When controlled, symptoms are hardly noticed and allow individuals to live a full and complete lifestyle.

The Family Asthma Act of 2005 authorizes \$18 million in each of fiscal years 2006-2010 for the following:

- pilot prevention and intervention research projects administered by the National Institutes of Health
- expansion of surveillance activities by the CDC
- increase coordination of Federal asthma-related activities
- establish a fellowship program to train asthma specialists about the links between asthma and the environment

## **Co-Sponsors:**

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)  
Rep. Bart Gordon ((D-TN)  
Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA)  
Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI)  
Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)  
Rep. James McGovern (D-MA)  
Rep. Michael McNulty (D-NY)  
Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)  
Rep. C.A. Ruppertsberger (D-MD)  
Rep. Joe Schwarz (R-MI)  
Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL)

## **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Co-sponsor H.R. 4166, the Family Asthma Act, and provide relief to the millions of children and families who suffer from asthma.