

Republican Themes
Hearing on Health Care of Foster Children
July 19, 2007

1. Children in Foster Care are assured of health care coverage through Medicaid and other government programs.
2. But that is not the same as saying that all foster children receive adequate medical care.
 - a. Children are often bounced from home to home and school to school with little continuous adult supervision.
 - b. Children's medical records may be nonexistent or poorly coordinated across providers.
 - c. Foster parents may have no idea about what allergies or past medications foster children have.
3. This lack of coordination leads to serious problems, such as overmedication of foster children or a failure to recognize their mental or physical health needs.
4. Recent research suggests some of these problems are associated with the removal of children into foster care and their experiences there, as opposed to abuse or neglect they experienced before removal.
5. Better prevention efforts, such as those offered by the Nurse Family Partnership, will reduce the need for placements into foster care, sparing children harm and saving taxpayers funds.