

## Children's Special Health Care Services

### Important points to communicate to legislators

- Change in policy delays the replacement interval for children's hearing aids from three to five years.
- Fitting hearing aids to a child is unique: as children grow their ears undergo continuous anatomical and physiological changes.
- The burden of hearing impairment and deafness falls disproportionately on the poor, because they are unable to afford the preventive and routine care necessary to avoid hearing loss or to afford hearing aids to make the condition manageable [World Health Organization, Fact sheet N° 300, March 2006].
- Vital language development occurs during childhood. If a child with a hearing loss cannot hear speech and this development does not take place, it could result in a lifelong disability.