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**Families Face Harsh Reality: 2,000 Children Join the Uninsured Each Day
*Chance to Reduce Number Denied by President, a Few in Congress***

WASHINGTON -- Every day another 2,000 children will join the ranks of the uninsured, adding to the 9 million uninsured children currently without private or public health insurance, according to new data released today by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families.

The new analysis, *American Families Face Harsh Reality: 2,000 Children Join the Ranks of Uninsured Each Day*, found that low-income children are more likely to lack coverage, although much of the recent growth in the number of children has been among moderate-income families.

Today, Congress failed to override the president's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program reauthorization legislation. The bill would have provided states with new tools and funding to sharply reduce the uninsured rate among children. SCHIP has been resoundingly successful since its bipartisan creation 10 years ago.

"By failing to come together to do what's best for America's children, Congress just missed an important chance to help stem the growing tide of uninsured children and cut the number of uninsured children by nearly one half. With 2,000 children each day expected to join the ranks of the uninsured, efforts to pass a strong SCHIP bill must continue," said Cindy Mann, executive director of the Center for Children and Families.

Many states are poised to move forward with efforts to reverse this downward trend by building on SCHIP's very successful track record. States' ability to do so, however, is dependent on a strong reauthorization of SCHIP.

"There is wide agreement that the key to helping states continue their efforts to cover children is a strong SCHIP reauthorization," said Jocelyn Guyer, deputy executive director of the Center for Children and Families and co-author of the analysis.

The analysis, *American Families Face Harsh Reality: 2,000 Children Join the Ranks of Uninsured Each Day*, is available on Center for Children and Families' SCHIP Portal at <http://www3.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/ccf/schip/>.

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