



*Cindy Mann, executive director of the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, issued the following statement on President Bush's second veto of legislation reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)*

## **President Bush's Second SCHIP Veto Sends America's Children Disappointing Holiday Present**

President Bush's second veto of bi-partisan State Children's Health Insurance Program legislation gave 9 million uninsured children a disappointing present this Holiday Season. The veto is a missed opportunity to ensure that 4 million more children have the health care coverage that they need.

As the White House is aglow in the spirit of the Holiday Season, 62,000 children are expected to lose health insurance during the month of December. That is nearly 2,000 children joining the ranks of the uninsured each day.

The veto threatens coverage for the children who already rely on SCHIP, an extremely effective and popular program, and threatens new initiatives across the country to cover more children.

Before lawmakers leave to begin their holiday recess, they will need to act to minimize the damage caused by the president's SCHIP veto. To prevent children from losing SCHIP coverage, lawmakers must adopt a long-term and fully funded extension of SCHIP that allows states to continue operating their programs until this stalemate can be resolved. In addition, they must suspend the directive the Bush administration issued late in the summer, which is already thwarting state efforts to cover children.

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