



For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2007

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

President Bush's veto of legislation to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program places political ideology above the urgent need to ensure that children have health care coverage.

Children need solutions, not ideology. If the number of uninsured children grows this year at the same rate as last year, nearly 2,000 additional children will become uninsured every day.

The president rejected a compromise SCHIP bill that would place the program's financing on a solid course over the next decade and cover nearly 4 million additional uninsured children. By contrast, the president's SCHIP proposal would result in no new coverage gains but rather in the loss of SCHIP coverage for more than 1 million children. The president's proposal would worsen rather than help solve the growing uninsurance problem among our nation's children.

The president's veto hurts children and is out of step with a bipartisan majority of the members of Congress, the nation's governors, and the American people.

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