

For Immediate Release

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**CCF Statement: Bush Administration's New Estimates
On Uninsured Children Are Inconsistent With the Facts**

The Bush administration's new estimates on the number of uninsured children are inconsistent with the facts, the reality of states grappling to provide coverage to uninsured children, and the need for strong federal action on SCHIP reauthorization.

Some nine million children in the United States lack health care coverage, according to commonly-cited, respected sources. Widely-regarded, peer-reviewed literature on the number of uninsured children eligible for coverage suggests that some 3.7 million children are eligible for Medicaid and 1.7 million are eligible for enrollment in the State Children's Health Insurance Program. In contrast, the Bush administration now maintains that nationwide only 1.1 million uninsured children are eligible for public coverage.

The administration's release of the flawed data comes as Congress is on the verge of renewing the SCHIP program. The new estimates appear to be part of a transparent effort to revive the administration's proposal to limit new SCHIP funding to levels far below what Congress is considering. With the Census Bureau estimating that 9 million children remain uninsured, America's families deserve and expect federal policymakers to stay with the facts and address the very real crisis they face in securing coverage for their children.

The Senate Finance Committee is poised to act this month on bipartisan legislation to further strengthen the successful SCHIP program, which expires Sept. 30.