



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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URGENT ISSUE UPDATE

DATE: October 17, 2007
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

House Vote on President's Veto of NAACP-Supported Children's Health Care Insurance Program Scheduled for Tomorrow

*NAACP Urges all House Members to Vote to
Save Vital Children's Health Insurance Program*

THE ISSUE:

On October 3, 2007, President Bush vetoed legislation expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) by \$35 billion over the next five years. This expansion, which enjoyed bi-partisan support in both the House and the Senate, as well as among groups as diverse as the NAACP and industry groups representing insurers (the American Health Insurance Plans, or AHIP) and doctors (the American Medical Association) would have covered not only the 6 million children already enrolled in S-CHIP, but would have allowed almost 6 million more American children to benefit from the program.

Since 1997, S-CHIP has significantly improved American children's access to health care, and has made significant strides in covering racial and ethnic minority children. Initially S-CHIP provided \$40 billion to states to provide health care coverage to children who lived in families that earned too much to qualify for Medicare but too little to afford private health insurance. Since its adoption, S-CHIP has reduced dramatically (by a third) the number of America's uninsured children. Racial and ethnic minority children have especially benefited from this program; since 1997, the rate of uninsured African American children dropped by almost half; from 20% to 12%; the rate of uninsured Asian and Pacific Islander children has also been cut in half, from 17% to 8%. The rate of uninsured Latino children has gone from 30% to 21%. Because of S-CHIP, approximately 6 million children currently have access to vital health care services including screening and prevention services that help them stay healthy and grow to be strong and productive adults.

Despite these successes, there is still work to be done. Nine million children in our nation remain uninsured today; more than 5 million of them are racial or ethnic minorities. Nearly three-quarters of them are eligible for either Medicare or SCHIP, yet they are not enrolled in either program.

The House of Representatives is expected to vote tomorrow, Thursday, October 18, on whether or not to override the President's veto (if the House successfully overrides the veto, the Senate will vote on the issue the following week). WE MUST ENCOURAGE EVERY MEMBER OF THE US HOUSE TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO!

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and **URGE HIM / HER TO SUPPORT THE REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE S-CHIP PROGRAM AND TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO.** To contact your Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Congressman's office. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

NO TIME TO USE THE MAIL!
CALL, FAX OR
E-MAIL TODAY!

To contact your Representative, send it to:
[Redacted] (name of Representative)
[Redacted] of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Representative's office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for his / her fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "Write Your Representative." This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

THE MESSAGE

- S-CHIP has been extremely successful in reducing the number of low-income American children who do not have health insurance; approximately 6 million children who would otherwise be uninsured now have access to vital health care services, including preventative care.
- The program has proven to be especially beneficial to racial and ethnic minority children; since its inception in 1997, almost half of the uninsured African American and Asian and Pacific Islander children now have health insurance. S-CHIP has reduced the number of uninsured Latino children by almost a third.
- Despite these successes, nearly 9 million American children remain uninsured; roughly 60% of them are racial or ethnic minorities and almost three-fourths currently qualify for S-CHIP or Medicaid.
- S-CHIP needs to be reauthorized and expanded by almost \$60 billion over the next 5 years to ensure that all uninsured children in American are covered.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO AND SUPPORT
REAUTHORIZING AND EXPANDING THE STATE CHILDREN'S
HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (S-CHIP)**

Dear Representative _____;

As your constituent, I strongly encourage you to do all you can to see that the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) is reauthorized and expanded this year. **This includes overriding the President's ill-advised veto of the bipartisan legislation presented to him on October 3, 2007.**

S-CHIP has been extremely successful in reducing the number of low-income American children who do not have health insurance; approximately 6 million children who would otherwise be uninsured now have access to vital health care services, including preventative care. The program has proven to be especially beneficial to racial and ethnic minority children; since its inception in 1997, almost half of the uninsured African American and Asian and Pacific Islander children now have health insurance. S-CHIP has reduced the number of uninsured Latino children by almost a third.

Despite these successes, nearly 9 million American children remain uninsured; roughly 60% of them are racial or ethnic minorities and almost three-fourths currently qualify for S-CHIP or Medicaid. S-CHIP needs to be reauthorized and expanded by almost \$60 billion over the next 5 years to ensure that all uninsured children in American are covered.

Please do all you can to see that S-CHIP is reauthorized and expanded by \$60 billion so that all children in our nation, those already in the program as well as those who remain uninsured, can receive the health coverage they deserve. Healthy children will lead to a stronger future, and no child should be denied at least an even chance at decent health. Please vote to override the President's veto of this bill.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and knowing what I can do to help you in this struggle,

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)