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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Washington, DC 20515-6115

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July 18, 2007

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Q: Who Would Take Health Care Away From A Child? A: George W. Bush

Dear Colleague:

Today, 46 million Americans lack health insurance.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has been remarkably successful in filling a need for children in working families. Today, more than six million children receive coverage through SCHIP.

In spite of the program's success, the President and Congressional Republicans are proposing to roll back coverage for millions of children:

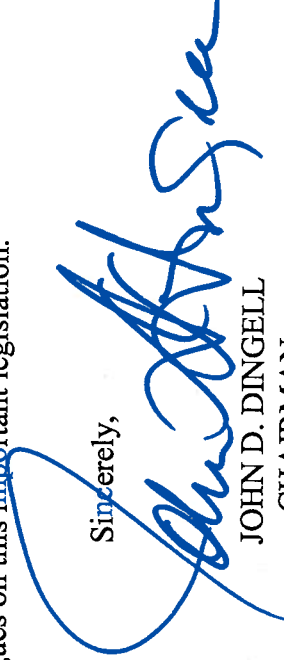
- Children in families with incomes as low as \$35,000 a year would lose coverage.
- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's proposal would cause up to 3.6 million children to lose their SCHIP coverage.
- Lack of coverage means decreased use of preventive healthcare services, decreased use of needed therapeutic care, increased emergency room use and resulting uncompensated care costs, and increased mortality rates.

The House Democratic SCHIP package will protect the six million children who today have affordable health coverage through SCHIP. The Democratic package will also ensure that States have the tools and resources to move forward to find and enroll the children who are currently eligible for but do not have insurance coverage through SCHIP. The House Democratic package will not raise the income level for families whose children would be covered.

Who would deny a little girl coverage that ensures her asthma medicine gets refilled every month? Who would deny a young boy coverage that takes care of a broken arm? Apparently this Administration believes 3.6 million children don't deserve such health security.

SCHIP must be reauthorized to protect children's health. The Democratic SCHIP package prevents children from losing their coverage and retains State flexibility to insure kids. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN