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**Easter Seals**

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## VOTE YES ON SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION

Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge you to vote YES on the conference report for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorizing legislation. This important legislation will ensure that more than 4 million children currently enrolled in SCHIP continue to receive needed health care. The bill also extends coverage to an additional 4 million children who have been eligible for the program but not yet enrolled.

During Easter Seals nearly 90 years of service to children, we have learned that when children have access to appropriate health services, they have better long term health. When children must go without insurance, they are at risk of not getting the medical attention they need to live healthy and productive lives. The SCHIP reauthorization before the House is a cost-effective means of ensuring that children have access to needed care. Easter Seals urges you to continue this safety-net health insurance program for at-risk and low-income children.

This conference report is the product of a process that required all sides to contribute and all sides to sacrifice. Easter Seals strongly supported provisions in the House-passed bill that would protect Medicaid services to children and adults with disabilities. While we had hoped these provisions could have been part of the conference report, we also strongly believe that the SCHIP program must continue without disruption. As you know, if Congress does not act, this key program expires on September 30, 2007. For these reasons, we urge you to vote YES on the conference report to accompany the SCHIP reauthorization.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall L. Rutta". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Randall L. Rutta  
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs