



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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October 16, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I urge you to vote to override President Bush's ill-advised veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

This bipartisan bill would provide healthcare coverage to almost 4 million low-income children at a cost of \$35 billion over five years. The number of children receiving benefits would expand from the present 6.6 million to over 10 million.

In contrast, President Bush proposed a meager \$5 billion increase that, if enacted, actually would reduce the number of children presently receiving SCHIP benefits by 1.4 million.

The president's veto is a disgraceful failure to support our nation's most vulnerable children. There is a general consensus that providing healthcare for low-income children is a wise investment for our nation to make. Access to quality healthcare not only gives a child access to doctors, it also improves a child's likelihood of succeeding in school. Healthy children are better learners. Children with access to good healthcare are less likely to miss school, can concentrate better in class, and do better academically.

I strongly urge you to vote to overturn the president's veto.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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