



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rep. Shuler Stands Up for North Carolina Children**

*Washington, D.C.* – U.S. Representative Heath Shuler continued fighting to ensure that every American child has access to the healthcare they need today by supporting the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

“We have a moral obligation to care for the least among us, especially our children. In America, no child should ever go without basic healthcare,” said Shuler. “I am pro-life, and this legislation to provide children healthcare is a life issue to me.”

Today's bipartisan bill, H.R. 2, reauthorizes SCHIP for four and a half years, preserving the healthcare of 7 million low-income children across the country and 240,000 children in North Carolina. The bill will also extend coverage to 4 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP or Medicaid.

“I am committed to doing everything in my power to ensure that every child is able to grow up healthy. This bill rightly provides states the resources they need to reach out and cover millions of additional children,” said Shuler, shortly after voting in support of the SCHIP reauthorization.

Today's version of the SCHIP reauthorization passed with overwhelming support 289-139. It was similar to the legislation that twice passed the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, but was vetoed by President Bush both times.

SCHIP was created in 1997 to provide healthcare coverage for children in families that earn too little to afford health insurance for their children themselves but too much to qualify for Medicaid.

It has been endorsed by dozens of organizations, representing millions of Americans – ranging from business groups such as the National Federation of Independent Businesses and Business Roundtable to the American Hospital Association to such groups as AARP and Families USA.

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