

PRESIDENT BUSH ALONE ON DENYING CHILDREN HEALTH INSURANCE

Republican Governors Abandon Bush Over SCHIP; 43 Governors Support Program

Today, President Bush again declared his intention to veto legislation that will provide health care insurance to children who have none. This legislation would continue to cover children who are already a part of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and would extend coverage to millions more who are currently eligible but not enrolled. Despite the fact that this plan has broad, bipartisan support – including support from Congressional Republicans and Governors – President Bush refuses to compromise.

Some recent comments from Republican Governors in support of SCHIP:

“SCHIP is an important safety net, and one way of investing in our young people that can pay real dividends in wellness and avoided costs down the road. SCHIP works.”

- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-ID), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Press Conference

“CHIP is a much-needed safety net for uninsured kids and Congress showed tremendous foresight in authorizing it a decade ago. Uninsured children are the state's No. 1 priority.”

- Governor Jon Huntsman (R-UT), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Press Conference

“While Secretary Leavitt has some concerns about dramatic expansions, we as governors also want to make sure that the current population -- and hopefully some reasonable expansions -- could be covered.”

- Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R-MN), NewsHour, 7/30/2007

“We cannot roll back the clock on a program that has helped to ensure children who need it most have a healthy start in life. Protecting funding for this program is one of my highest priorities this year.”

- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA), 9/18/2007

“In Rhode Island, GOP Gov. Don Carcieri said aggressive enrollment efforts had boosted their combined Medicaid and SCHIP program so that 94% of children were covered, at its height, before administrative hurdles and other problems caused some backsliding. ‘We built all that up,’ Carcieri said. ‘We don't want to pull the rug out.’”

- Gov. Don Carcieri (R-RI), USA Today, 2/26/2007

“Healthier children are more successful, a fact that, when coupled with our moral obligation to care for our nation's children, has helped spur efforts to improve health care for the youngest Americans...It's also why there's been such strong and steadfast support in both parties and in all regions of the country for the State Children's Health insurance Program (SCHIP) ever since its creation in 1997...For health and moral reasons, Congress must pass and the President must sign a reauthorization of SCHIP by September 30, 2007. Without timely reauthorization and funding, it will be virtually impossible for states to continue coverage for children already enrolled in SCHIP programs.”

- Letter from Gov. Sonny Perdue (R-GA) and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS), 9/13/07

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