

# PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

## *Democrats' SCHIP, Medicare Plan Will Ensure Access to Health Care for Millions of Low-Income Children and Seniors*

***“President Bush yesterday rejected entreaties by his Republican allies that he compromise with Democrats on legislation to renew a popular program that provides health coverage to poor children... The president said he objects on philosophical grounds to a bipartisan Senate proposal to boost the State Children's Health Insurance Program.”*** [Washington Post, 7/19/07]

House Democrats are preparing legislation that will reauthorize the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program and protect Medicare for America's seniors. This legislation has bipartisan support in Congress, and President Bush supported it while running for re-election. Now, despite the fact that there are 6 million American children who are eligible for SCHIP who are not enrolled, President Bush “objects on philosophical grounds” to protecting those children. Instead, the President's proposal fails to keep pace with inflation and would force many of those now covered under SCHIP out of the program. Currently, SCHIP is set to expire on September 30. Without quick action, millions of children could lose their health insurance, and seniors could lose access to doctors who formerly provided services covered by Medicare.

### REAUTHORIZING SCHIP

- SCHIP has been a success, providing insurance to 6.7 million children last year, and reducing the number of uninsured low-income children by one-third since its establishment 10 years ago.
- Reauthorization of SCHIP will provide coverage for more than 11 million children, including 5 million children who are currently uninsured.

### PROTECTING MEDICARE

#### **House Democrats' legislation will:**

- Stop a 10% payment cut to doctors so seniors may continue to see the doctor of their choice.
- Eliminate co-payments and deductibles for low-income seniors for preventative benefits, including colonoscopy and cancer screening.
- Improve programs to keep Medicare affordable for low-income seniors.
- Ensure continued access to Medicare and doctors for seniors living in rural areas.

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE HAS STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

“It's disappointing, even a little unbelievable, to hear talk about Administration officials wanting a veto of a legislative proposal they haven't even seen yet.... As Republican leaders on the committee of jurisdiction, we've been working day and night to reach an agreement on children's health insurance legislation because it is imperative that this important program, which has helped so many children, be continued.” - *Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-NV), Press Release, 7/12/07*

“The authorization for this critical safety net program will soon expire and urgent action is needed to ensure its continued success for the next five years.” - *Governors Janet Napolitano (D-AZ), Jon Corzine (D-NJ), Tim Pawlenty (R-MN), Jim Douglas (R-VT), Letter to Congress, 7/22/07*

“This bill marks significant progress toward investing in the health of America's children and I voted in favor of SCHIP reauthorization to ensure our country moves forward in our promise to cover nine million children who remain uninsured today.” - *Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Press Release, 7/23/07*