

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP)**

Resolution Summary

In 1997, Congress created the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to provide federal assistance to states to create programs to provide health care coverage for uninsured children whose families had incomes too great for Medicaid but who could not afford to purchase private coverage. In the subsequent ten years, the number of uninsured children in the United States has decreased by one third. Today, over 6 million children benefit from the SCHIP program.

The SCHIP program is complimentary to Medicaid but has a few important differences. Unlike Medicaid, SCHIP is not an entitlement program. SCHIP also has a much simpler, targeted purpose: to provide health care coverage for low-income uninsured children. And finally, states have more flexibility in the design of their SCHIP programs. Some states provide SCHIP services as an expansion of their Medicaid program and other states structure SCHIP services to be more like private insurance coverage.

Congress must reauthorize the SCHIP program in 2007 or jeopardize the health care coverage of million of children. Without federal funding, which is provided as a capped amount to states requiring a matched amount, states will face making sharp reductions in coverage for low-income children. The reduction in the numbers of uninsured children would likely be reversed.

Additional Resource Information

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/ChildrensHealthCareCoverage.pdf>

Congressional Budget Office

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/80xx/doc8092/05-10-SCHIP.pdf>

The Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HealthCare/h1980.cfm>

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7642.pdf>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.cbpp.org/6-5-06health.htm>

Voices for America's Children

<http://www.voicesforamericaschildren.org/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=8084&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>

State Children's Health Insurance Program Management Directives

- ⌚ **Management Directive #1:** CSG staff will prepare correspondence to U.S. House and Senate leadership notifying them of the approved resolution.

- ⌚ **Management Directive #2:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's Web site and make available through its regular communication venues the CSG support for reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
Resolution on State Children's Health Insurance

- WHEREAS**, over the past decade, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has succeeded in providing millions of children and youth across the country with access to affordable health care coverage; and
- WHEREAS**, since the inception of SCHIP in 1997, the number of low-income, uninsured children has decreased by one-third; and
- WHEREAS**, over 6 million children currently benefit from this program; and
- WHEREAS**, the rates of uninsurance have dropped for white, African American children and Hispanic children since the implementation of SCHIP; and
- WHEREAS**, SCHIP has provided health insurance coverage for low-income children in rural and urban areas alike; and
- WHEREAS**, Medicaid remains the foundation of our nation's public health care system for children, ensuring that 28 million children have access to health insurance; and
- WHEREAS**, Medicaid and SCHIP combined provide health care access for 34 million children; and
- WHEREAS**, SCHIP and Medicaid are especially important to children with special health care needs – those with developmental, chronic or behavioral health problems who may require specialized care; and
- WHEREAS**, the federal government and states have worked together to build a public health program that has been resoundingly successful and effective in providing access to and securing coverage for children; and
- WHEREAS**, Congress has the opportunity to reauthorize the SCHIP program to build upon the success of the last ten years and provide the resources needed to further narrow the coverage gap for children; and
- WHEREAS**, despite the success of Medicaid and SCHIP, 9 million children remain uninsured; and
- WHEREAS**, for the first time since 1998, the number of children without health insurance coverage rose by 360,000 children, climbing from 10.8 percent of children in 2004 to 11.2 percent in 2005; and
- WHEREAS**, most children covered by SCHIP are in working families that are unable to get or afford private health insurance for their children; and

WHEREAS, SCHIP covers children who would otherwise be uninsured. Most newly enrolled children were previously uninsured or had recently lost their Medicaid or private health coverage for involuntary reasons, such as parental job loss of a job or divorce; and

WHEREAS, a child's future should not be jeopardized by their inability to access affordable, health care services that meet the child's health care needs; and

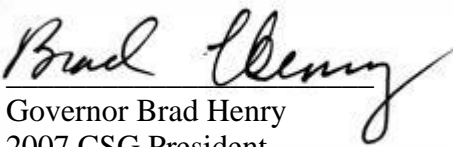
WHEREAS, in an ever-increasing global market, now more than ever, America's children need to grow up ready to succeed in school and at work; and


WHEREAS, the authorization for federal appropriations to the states for the SCHIP program ends in 2007 without reauthorization action by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the number of children covered by SCHIP will fall substantially over the coming decade if funding is not increased to reflect rising health care costs and other circumstances;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments urges the Members of Congress to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program *at higher levels* thus continuing the financial partnership between states and the federal government in providing access to affordable health care coverage for children.

Adopted this 13th Day of June, 2007 at the
CSG Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings
In Puerto Rico


Governor Brad Henry
2007 CSG President


Representative Deborah Hudson
2007 CSG Chair