

FRCD Newsletter

Editors: M.C. Christian, C. Des Jardins

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SCHIP OVERRIDE FAILS BY 16 U. S. HOUSE VOTES

The U.S. House of Representatives, on October 18, 2007, failed to override President Bush's veto of the State Children's Insurance Program (SCHIP) by 16 votes.

President Bush vetoed on October 3, 2007, legislation passed by the U.S. Congress that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). The SCHIP Program is jointly financed by the Federal and State governments, and administered by the states.

Illinois U.S. House members who supported the SCHIP Veto override were: Melissa Bean, (D-Barrington); Jerry F. Costello, (D-Belleville); Danny K. Davis, (D-Chicago); Rahm Emanuel, (D-Chicago); Luis V. Guitierrez, (D-Chicago); Phil Hare, (D-Rock Island); Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-Chicago); Mark S. Kirk, (R-Highland Park); Ray La Hood, (R-Peoria); Daniel Lipinski, (D-Western Springs); Bobby L. Rush, (D-Chicago); and Janice Schakowsky (D-Evanston).

Illinois U.S. House members who failed to support the SCHIP Veto override were: Judy Biggert, (R-Hinsdale); J. Dennis Hastert, (R-Yorkville); Timothy V. Johnson, (R-Urbana); Donald Manzullo, (R-Egan); Peter Roskam, (R-Wood Dale); John Shimkus, (R-Collinsville); and Jerry Weller, (R-Morris).

The bipartisan legislation provided for:

- Approximately \$35 million in new funding for the SCHIP program;
- Streamlining provisions in the enrollment process;
- A state option to cover pregnant women; and
- State flexibility on eligibility requirements.

Under the SCHIP legislation passed by Congress and vetoed by President Bush, SCHIP would continue to provide coverage for children currently enrolled, and extend coverage to some of the nearly six million children currently eligible but not enrolled in the program. Under SCHIP, states would utilize federal and state funds to pay physicians and private health care plans for low-income beneficiaries. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, approximately two-thirds of the children who stand to gain coverage under the bills in Congress are currently uninsured.

Illinois has made significant progress in expanding health care coverage for children through both Medicaid and SCHIP during the last decade. The state has also used SCHIP funds to gradually extend coverage for low-income parents. The SCHIP reauthorization would enable Illinois to continue this program. If federal funding remains at its current level, as proposed by the Bush administration, these gains in health coverage for Illinois children and families could be in jeopardy.

(Information from ARC of Illinois e-mails, 10/17/07 & 10/18/07; Voices for Illinois Children News Alert, 10/09/07, and 10/17/07; Monahan & Cohen *Special Education ENews*, 10/17/07).

Remember to use the enclosed Jewel Shop & Share Program coupon when you do your holiday shopping! For more details, see pages 4 & 5.

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