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**ACTION ALERT**

**Urge U.S. Senators to Support Unborn Child Rule in SCHIP Bill**

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**October 30, 2007**

**ISSUE:** On Tuesday, October 30 or Wednesday, October 31, the U.S Senate again is set to take up a bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

SCHIP provides health insurance for low-income children. Since 2002, federal regulations have improved the program by allowing states to cover unborn children under SCHIP from conception to birth. This regulation allows states to provide prenatal care and other health services to the child and the child's pregnant mother.

Currently the bill does not codify the unborn child rule. It mentions the availability of the option, but explicitly takes no position on the rule's "legality or illegality," leaving it vulnerable to elimination by any President or Health and Human Services Secretary.

A final SCHIP reauthorization should codify the unborn child rule, so states are secure in being able to choose life-affirming health services for needy children and their mothers without involvement in abortion. In an October 29 letter supporting reauthorization of SCHIP, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Chairman of the USCCB's Domestic Policy Committee, urged the codification of the unborn child rule. [Click here to view the letter and a Fact Sheet.](#)

**ACTION:** Please immediately contact Senators Nelson and Martinez by phone or e-mail. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 or click on the link below to send an email directly to each senator.