



ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: The U.S. Senate is expected to consider reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in the next few days. More than 9 million children in our country are uninsured. Through a federal/state partnership, SCHIP provides an affordable health insurance alternative for children of low-income families.

This is an important opportunity to promote several key improvements to the program—coverage of currently uninsured children, coverage of children before birth, and coverage of legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women.

ACTION: Send a message to Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez urging them to support and improve this measure with the following specifications:

- increased funding to reduce the number of uninsured children by nearly half, maintaining and expanding coverage, reducing enrollment barriers, and expanding outreach;
- provisions in the legislation allowing states to interpret the word “child” to include the period from conception to birth;
- coverage for legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women.