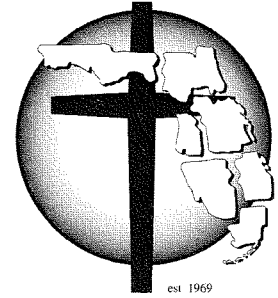


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D. MICHAEL MCCARRON PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



September 25, 2007

The Honorable Vernon Buchanan
Member of Congress
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: 202-226-0828

Dear Congressman Buchanan:

Re: Support for SCHIP Reauthorization

We urge the House of Representatives to deliver a bipartisan agreement to the President reauthorizing SCHIP. We do not want to see this resoundingly successful SCHIP program in limbo, putting children's coverage at risk. Failure to act in time will slow the growing momentum around the country and in Florida to cover more uninsured children. We are encouraged that governors of both parties, newspaper editorial boards from coast-to-coast, and an overwhelming majority of the American people have expressed support for a strong SCHIP bill.

We note that the compromise bill adheres closely to the bipartisan Senate bill passed in August, and includes:

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

The compromise SCHIP reauthorization bill will bring coverage to at least 4 million uninsured children. With new Census data showing that in 2006 there were **one million more uninsured children** than just two years ago, it seems necessary for SCHIP to generate significant progress over the next few years.

Congress must stand with children and support the compromise SCHIP bill to get children the health care they need. While President Bush has threatened to veto SCHIP reauthorization despite the bipartisan agreements in Congress, we urge members of Congress to stand with America's children and reauthorize the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Sheedy".

Michael B. Sheedy
Associate Director for Health