

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi,

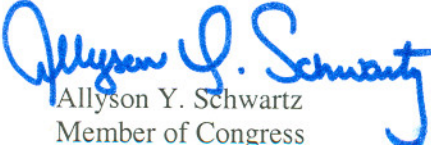
If Congress does not act soon, the number of children in the United States without health insurance will likely increase. This increase is primarily the result of a lack of federal funding, and it will leave many states without the funds needed to maintain coverage for the children they currently provide care to through their State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The undersigned members of Congress believe that we cannot stand by and put in jeopardy the health and well-being of so many children. We respectfully urge you to ensure that these impending funding shortfalls are averted before the 109th Congress is adjourned.

SCHIP was created in 1997 to reduce the number of uninsured children in the United States. It has been a truly successful federal-state partnership – reducing the number of uninsured low-income children by one-fourth since its enactment. More than four million children are currently enrolled in SCHIP; however, there is reason to be concerned that some children will lose coverage in the coming year.

The annual federal contribution to SCHIP is capped, meaning it is not adjusted to account for either increases in the cost of care or increases in the number of children in need of care. The failure to reflect these kinds of changes will severely impact at least 17 states in the coming year. Specifically, the following states will not have sufficient funds to maintain their existing SCHIP enrollment in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007: Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and South Dakota.

Last year, and for the first time since 1998, the number of uninsured children in the country increased. And even more children will go without coverage if states are forced to curtail SCHIP benefits by increasing beneficiary cost-sharing, reducing provider payments, or restricting enrollment eligibility. A failure by Congress to maintain the necessary support for SCHIP would be a failure to fulfill the promise of SCHIP and a failure to provide our children and grandchildren with needed care.

Congress has successfully addressed previous SCHIP shortfalls, and the needs of our children once again require that we take action. We ask that you work quickly with the Committees of jurisdiction and the undersigned members of Congress to immediately provide states with the funding needed to maintain SCHIP benefits. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.


Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

John Barrow
Member of Congress


Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppensburg

Julia Carson

Eddie Ligin John

W. H. H. H.

Arnold Hadden

Howard L. Berman

Clare E. Childs

Let's De Fyri

Jim Leard

Arinda J. Sirely

Jim McRumitt

Janet H. Holt

Melvin A. Watt

Michael E. Cannon

Diana DeLette

Jimmy K. Davis

Nona M. Hunt

Earl Pomeroy

Ben Audi

Tom Jefferson

Dick Boucher

Tom Allen

John W. Oliver

Betty McAllen

David W.

Tammy Baldwin

Elizabeth E. Cummings

Bobbyh. Rust

Samuel. Binney

Mike Mc Intyre

Solomon P. Ortiz

Chris Smith

John V. Gutierrez

Raka Fathh

Rajiv. Queno

Doris O. Matsui

Ken A. Wayman

Donald M. Payne

Wendy M. M. M.

Rosa L. De Lauro

Robert. Lynch

John Long

Bill DeLahun

Bill Pascul Jr.

Darcy Kaptur

Jim Oberstar

Gene Taylor

Mr. Mr.

Cynthia B. Maloney

Robert

Joe E. Serrano

Barry Fine

Lynn Woolsey

Carl S. Ariff

Stephanie Smith

John Lewis

Cote Stack

Willy Strong

Jim Langrin
Ron Kind

Amin Van Hullen

Raid M. Hijalva

W. L. G. L.

Terro Sanchez

Dennis J. Kuciniec

Barbara Lee

Ernest Green

John L. Smith

Robert W. W. W.

Arten Davis

Not A Lady

ma Z. Shoo

Wm. Jay Clay

Sam M.

Rahm Emanuel

Sam Farr

Daniel Lipinski

Russ Lundy

Hilda L. Sobis

Michael M. M.

Lois Capps

Carolyn McLaughlin
Albert R. Lynn
Shelley Berkeley
Patricia J. Kennedy
Dawn & Scott
Jim & Susan
Tina Ryan
J. Saxton

Dani Price
Joan Mitchell
Mike Deane
G.B. - 88
Frank Palumbo
Mike Row

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Eleanor H. Norton

