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The Honorable Ginny Brown-Waite
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brown-Waite:

Thank you for your continued leadership on the reauthorization of the State Childrens Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). As you know, renewing this program is critical to the approximately two million children and families currently eligible for SCHIP in our State.

As Governor, I too want to ensure that low-income children have access to quality health insurance, and commend the Florida Delegation for working so hard over the past several months to ensure that this important program is reauthorized before it expires on September 30, 2007.

The proposals of the Senate Finance and House Energy & Commerce Committees have positive components that I believe will make this program stronger. However, as Congress progresses toward a final product, I wanted to bring your attention to the core principles that I believe are essential to ensuring SCHIP remains dedicated to its original intent.

- ✓ **Children Should Be the Cornerstone of SCHIP Funding**
- ✓ **States Need the Flexibility to Dispense SCHIP Funding Over Multiple Years**
- ✓ **Federal SCHIP Funding Should Be Based on Projected Spending and Allow for Population Growth**
- ✓ **States Need the Flexibility and Funding to Conduct Additional Outreach Activities**

Thank you again for your commitment to the KidCare program and to Florida's children and families. I look forward to working together to ensure that the thousands of eligible children in our state receive the highest quality benefits through this important healthcare program.

Sincerely,

Cc: Florida Congressional Delegation