



**Rodney Alexander** / Louisiana's 5th District  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

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## **Alexander: CMS Decision Will Allow More Louisiana Children To Receive Health Insurance**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, praised today's announcement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) will now be open to children in families with incomes up to 250 percent of the 2008 federal poverty level, or \$53,000 for a family of four.

Prior to this change, the LaCHIP program eligibility capped at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Alexander said the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals reported in January that 114,115 children in Louisiana were receiving health insurance through LaCHIP; 20,067 of those children reside in Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. This change will open the program to an additional 6,500 children statewide.

**"This decision further advances the mission of LaCHIP – to ensure children whose parents cannot afford health insurance are given the help they need and deserve,"** Alexander said. **"Yet, as always, we must stay focused on continuing to increase enrollment numbers for those children who qualified under the previous level but are not enrolled."**

While serving as Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee in the Louisiana State Legislature, Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, worked to launch LaCHIP.

Alexander said thousands of Louisiana children qualify for the program but are not enrolled, and he encourages parents to call the LaCHIP office at (877) 252-2447 to learn if their children are eligible to receive benefits.

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