



OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

October 2, 2007

WHAT SENATE & HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE SAID ABOUT BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

Senate Republicans

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa)

“[This bill] breaks the legislative impasse and should have strong support from both Democrats and Republicans. The bill will enable the Children’s Health Insurance Program to help cover millions more low-income children.” [Joint press release, 9/21/07]

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Iowa)

“I have been fighting for legislation that will not only continue the CHIP program, but also cover more low-income kids who are eligible for CHIP. Today, we are unveiling our bipartisan compromise that accomplishes those two very important goals. Our proposal is an honest compromise which improves a program that works for America’s low-income children.” [Joint press release, 9/21/07]

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)

“The Administration is threatening to veto this bill because of ‘excessive spending’ and their belief that this bill is a step toward federalization of health care. I am not for excessive spending and strongly oppose the federalization of health care. And if the Administration’s concerns with this bill were accurate, I would support a veto. But, bluntly put, they are not.” [Los Angeles Times, 9/28/07]

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.)

“While some have alleged we are expanding the program, that rhetoric could not be further from the truth. We are not expanding the program; we are simply putting our money where our mouths have been. ... We are also not expanding government-run health care. SCHIP is a program that is delivered by private insurance companies. It is a program that requires families to pay premiums and copayments based on their income levels. It is for these reasons that SCHIP will garner strong, bipartisan support.” [Cong. Record, 9/27/07]

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Me.)

“SCHIP has truly been a saving grace for millions of families across America who otherwise could not afford to pay for their children’s health care. I’m pleased that members of both the House and Senate, both Republican and Democrat, have come together in good faith to reach an agreement for the benefit of hard-working families in need.... I would strongly encourage the President to reconsider his short-sighted veto threat and work hand-in-hand with Congress to extend health insurance to countless, deserving children.” [Cong. Record, 9/27/07]

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

“I urge the President to support the CHIP bill to allow more American children access to the health care they need to stay healthy, to stay alert and to function well in school. The best investment we can make is in our children and by signing the CHIP bill, the President can grant our future generation of over 10 million children access to vital health care services.” [Cong. Record, 9/27/07]

House Republicans

Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.)

“This is a good bipartisan compromise to help the millions of uninsured children in our country. Whatever financial strains a family may endure, it should have no impact on the type and quality of care their child receives for health-related matters. I support this bill and will encourage my Republican colleagues to do the same.” [Joint press release, 9/21/07]

Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.)

“We have a moral obligation to cover all our children so every child in America can grow up healthy. It's the right thing to do; it's also the cost-effective thing to do...That's why I strongly support extending and expanding SCHIP. I also hope we can work together to provide greater access to private insurance coverage for America's children and other uninsured Americans...There is no better investment than to invest in the health and well-being of America's children.” [Congressional Record, 9/25/07]

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY)

“The SCHIP program has been a huge success in providing coverage to millions of uninsured, low-income children...It has played a key role in ensuring that children receive proper care and has helped put millions of young Americans on the path to a healthier lifestyle. While two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for coverage through CHIP or Medicaid, many continue to go without the care they need because they have not joined the program. This legislation will benefit society as a whole benefits because taxpayers save when children receive proper preventative care and learn of medical conditions sooner. This bill will put millions of young people on the road to a longer and healthier life.” [[Statement, 10/1/07](#)]

Rep. Phil English (R-Pa.)

“Kids across the country just got the shot in the arm they need to ensure uninterrupted access to quality and affordable healthcare...we've finally managed to put the SCHIP program back on its intended path: to help kids live happy and healthy lifestyles...House passage of this bill sends a strong message that this Congress is committed to strengthening and improving healthcare for children and it is my hope the Senate will act swiftly so we can get this bill signed into law.” [[Statement, 9/25/07](#)]

Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-NJ)

“SCHIP is an important building block that provides health care for uninsured kids in New Jersey and around the country...When young children are healthy, they're more likely to perform better in school and succeed later in life. The bill recognizes New Jersey's high cost of living and makes certain that health coverage is provided to children in low- and moderate-income families who do not have employer-provided health insurance.” [[Statement, 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio)

“I voted today with a majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to extend SCHIP to expand healthcare access to the children of working parents whose income is too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who for one reason or another do not have any health insurance coverage through their employers. The program has proven extremely successful in covering many children who had fallen through the cracks and providing them with quality preventive and acute healthcare. This bill provides states with new tools to enroll more eligible low income children with health coverage.” [[Statement, 9/25/07](#)]

Rep. Thomas Petri (R-Wisc.)

“A lot of hard work has been put into this bill, including the successful efforts of Senators Orrin Hatch of Utah and Chuck Grassley of Iowa, both good Republicans and conservatives. So, I am comfortable that this bill is the right compromise, that it will provide much-needed health insurance for the nation's low-income children, and do it at a reasonable cost.” [[The Northwestern \(Wisconsin\), 9/25/07](#)]

Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.)

“The access to SCHIP preventive care, such as shots and vaccines, is the greatest safety net we can provide against illness and suffering down the road...It is my great hope that by expanding this program, more families in Delaware and across the nation will enroll and provide services to poor children in need.” [[News Journal \(Wilmington, Delaware\), 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.)

“This is not a perfect bill but does offer a needed safety net to provide health insurance to those children who need it most...I continue to hear from people throughout Eastern Washington about the challenges of affording health insurance. This program has played an important role in ensuring access to health care for low-income children.” [[Seattle Post Intelligencer, 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.)

“I grew up with acute asthma, and I know personally how important it is for kids to have access to affordable health care. This bill will continue to provide health care coverage to millions of children who otherwise would be uninsured.” [[Statement, 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.)

“I have long been a supporter of the SCHIP program and I’m glad to have an opportunity to move the reauthorization process forward...” [[Statement, 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.)

“This is a compromise version of the bill which has the support of a broad coalition of groups. It focuses on the lowest income kids and fixes a lot of the problems with the current program.” [[Statement, 9/26/07](#)]

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska)

“Issues such as the health and well-being of our nation’s children are nothing to play politics with and nothing to scrimp on.” [[Statement, 9/25/07](#)]

Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio)

“The children's insurance program is too important to not support.” [[Cleveland Plain Dealer \(Ohio\), 9/26/07](#)]