

Christus Medicus Foundation
Reform SCHIP State by State

The second Presidential veto of the SCHIP and the failure to get public support made congress realize that what they thought to be a winning issue was not the slam-duck victory they thought it would be. Now that congress has passed legislation to extend SCHIP to March 31, 2009 it is time to go back to the states and do what is right for children and families and reform SCHIP state by state. The good news about last year's long confusing debate was that many American families were made aware that the debate over SCHIP reauthorization was dominated by a liberal agenda to expand the scope of government in the US health care system.

Federal and state policymakers should return to fighting for real change in SCHIP and for new ways to expand access to private health insurance.

A Federal SCHIP Reform Committee needs to be established to educate federal policymakers on the need to do the following:

Market-based Reforms

Instead of depending on more government programs, like SCHIP and Medicaid, as a means to expand coverage, policymakers should look to make private health insurance more accessible and affordable for American families. Three fundamental changes are essential to make this happen:

· **Give parents the opportunity to enroll their families in health plans they can trust.** Faith-based options must be made available so that parents have the freedom to choose a plan that is consistent with their moral values, does not put their child's health at risk and does not undermine their role as the first and primary caregiver and educator of their children's health.

· **Give working families tax relief to purchase private health care coverage.** A federal health care tax credit and/or tax deduction would give working families the helping hand they need to purchase private health care coverage.

· **Enable consumers to purchase private coverage in a national marketplace.** Consumers should be able to cross state lines to purchase health insurance.

Nationwide State SCHIP Reform Committees needs to be established to educate state policymakers on the need to do the following:

- 1) Confirm all coverage in state programs that are dangerous to the health and welfare of children and those that are provided to children without parental consent (eg. abortion, contraception, sterilization, fertility procedures, and vaccines) and identify the amount of dollars spent annually for this coverage. This may take the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2) Recruit right to life, faith-based healthcare and religious leaders to become active members of SCHIP reform committees.
- 3) Educate and actively engage policymakers, through personal contacts and through the religious and secular media, to amend SCHIP. Assure all Americans an option to enroll their child in a health plan that does not undermine their role as parents and does not cover procedures that put their children's health at risk by covering vaccines, abortion, contraception, sterilization, fertility procedures and/or other procedures that are dangerous to their child's health.

So goes SCHIP so goes health care reform! The Christus Medicus Foundation (CMF) wants to join together with you and your state and federal leaders to protect morality and economic justice in health care reform. Please acknowledge below if you want to help raise money and provide the leadership necessary in your state to partner with CMF in this most urgent reform. Please include your email and phone number.

Your friend for life and freedom,

Acknowledged by,



**Michael O'Dea
Executive Director**

Date: 1-23-08

Date: _____

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