

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

For Immediate Release

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Press Statement

on

PASSAGE OF SCHIP BILL IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

by David T. Tayloe, MD, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“The U.S. House of Representatives did right by children this week. The House stood up for America’s children today by reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in a 289-139 vote. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) thanks Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her leadership and the members of Congress for their bipartisan work and action to try and renew this important program by its March 31 expiration date.

“Renewing SCHIP has been one of the Academy’s top legislative priorities. This program funds insurance coverage for more than 11 million children nationwide. Millions more are eligible but not enrolled. The House of Representatives invested in the future of this country today in the passage of this reauthorization, and we urge the Senate to act swiftly and decisively to do the same.

“AAP supported this bill because it fulfills the pledge of more than \$30 billion in federal funding to provide health care for those currently enrolled in the program, and to enroll millions more children, the vast majority of whom are currently eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid but unenrolled. It also strengthens and improves health care coverage for children in a variety of other areas, including:

- Funding to include 4 million additional children who are currently uninsured
- Passage of the Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act (ICHIA), which will lift a five year ban on public health coverage for legally residing children and pregnant women
- Funding of nearly \$250 million for quality measurement

“Nine million children are uninsured in this country. SCHIP is a down-payment for what AAP hopes will come in the coming months, comprehensive health reform to ensure that all children have access to affordable, high quality health coverage. AAP calls on the Senate to move quickly to pass SCHIP so that incoming President Obama can sign into law this important legislation.”

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.