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## **NEW STATE-BY-STATE SCHIP FACT SHEETS RELEASED**

*Congress Expected to Debate SCHIP's Renewal Soon*

**Washington, DC**—As Congress prepares to work on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is up for reauthorization, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) today released a set of state-by-state fact sheets to inform legislators and the public about the program.

SCHIP, which has enjoyed strong bipartisan support since it was created a decade ago, provides a vital source of health care coverage to children whose parents work but cannot afford or are not offered health insurance. Since 1997, the program has effectively reduced the number of low-income children living without health insurance by more than one third. The fact sheets provide state-by-state data on enrollment, eligibility, covered benefits, and related issues to show how the program serves children. Certain aspects of the SCHIP program can vary greatly across states, as Congress gave states flexibility to design programs tailored to meet the needs of each states' children and families.

“The health and welfare of our nation's children took a major leap forward with the enactment of SCHIP 10 years ago,” said AAP President Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP. “Without it, millions of children would be uninsured, which underscores the need for timely, adequate renewal to maintain and build on its successes and ensure no child loses coverage.”

“States embraced SCHIP from the start and have consistently displayed a commitment to increasing coverage for children,” said Alan Weil, NASHP Executive Director.

SCHIP Fact Sheets  
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While SCHIP covers over 6 million individuals, another 9 million children remain uninsured, with as many as three-quarters of them currently eligible but unenrolled in either SCHIP or Medicaid. Uninsured children are far less likely to receive timely care for childhood illnesses, such as sore throats, earaches and asthma, they often end up in the emergency room or hospital due to delays in seeking treatment, and may not have access to well-child visits and needed prescription medications.

Copies of the state-specific fact sheets can be downloaded from the Web by going to either [www.chipcentral.org](http://www.chipcentral.org) or [http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/SCHIP\\_factsheets/main\\_SCHIP\\_factsheets.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/SCHIP_factsheets/main_SCHIP_factsheets.htm). The data comes primarily from a September 2006 NASHP SCHIP report.

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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.*

*The National Academy for State Health Policy is an independent academy of state health policy makers working together to identify emerging issues, develop policy solutions, and improve state health policy and practice. NASHP provides a forum for constructive, nonpartisan work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health issues facing states. NASHP is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-membership organization dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice.*