

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Press Statement
on
House Failure to Override SCHIP Veto
by Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), representing 60,000 pediatricians, is saddened by the House of Representatives’ failure to override President Bush’s veto of the bipartisan State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill. The rhetoric of those who opposed the legislation to reauthorize SCHIP demonstrated a fundamental misunderstanding of the bill. The legislation specifically targets America’s lowest income children. Adult participation in the program has been previously approved by this administration through the waiver process. Limiting adult access could have simply been handled by denying waivers. The compromise legislation would have further addressed this issue going forward, while still providing states flexibility and financial support for enrollment of up to 4 million low-income eligible children.

“The present situation is acknowledged by all to be unacceptable. At a time when census figures are reporting increased numbers of uninsured children, the Academy is committed to working with Congress and the president to further clarify the current bill’s purpose and intent with simple, straight-forward language revisions. We commend those members of Congress who supported this legislation. As leaders, we all have a moral obligation to provide our children—America’s future—with access to quality and comprehensive health care. They deserve no less.”

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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.