

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Press Statement
on
Expected Second Presidential SCHIP Veto
by Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“President Bush’s expected veto of bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) today is a ‘Bah humbug!’ to the 6 million children who are eligible for health care coverage but not enrolled.

“With 2,000 newly uninsured children every day, and states facing unprecedented SCHIP funding shortfalls in 2008, millions of children are at risk of losing access to the health care coverage that keeps them healthy during this holiday season. America’s 9 million uninsured children is already a point of national shame, and President Bush’s veto in the face of bipartisan support for children makes the situation even worse. Despite visits from the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present, the President has decided to wait until the Ghost of Christmas Future shows him the continuing harm to our nation and its most vulnerable citizens when they go without health insurance.”

Because of the second presidential veto and apparently stalled reauthorization talks, the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 60,000 pediatricians, joined more than 50 other national, state and local organizations in a letter to members of Congress Dec. 11 urging immediate enactment of legislation that will reauthorize the program, or at the very least, address shortfall funding. The legislation must also address an August Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services letter limiting enrollment guidelines for the program. For a copy of the letter, please contact Priscilla Ring at 202-724-3304, or pring@aap.org.

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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.