



OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

October 15, 2007

NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY CONTINUE TO CALL FOR OVERRIDE OF PRESIDENT'S VETO OF BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

Below is a sampling of editorials just since October 7th supporting an override of President Bush's veto of the bipartisan children's health insurance bill.

New York Times, "Five Shortsighted Legislators"

"When the House votes next week on whether to override President Bush's veto of a children's health insurance bill, any legislators from New York or New Jersey who fail to support this essential program be sabotaging their own state's program and, far worse, punishing their own state's children. Most of the members recognized that and voted for the bill, except for a small band of Republicans. If they refuse to switch sides — out of ideology or misplaced loyalty to the White House — any who have the nerve to do so for re-election deserve to be punished at the polls." [10/12/07]

Toledo Blade (Ohio), "Against all logic"

"This country has blown away more than \$458 billion on the war in Iraq. But President Bush can't justify spending less than a tenth of that on the poorest of our children... Choosing once again to place a peculiar twist of ideology above bipartisanship, compassion, and logic, Mr. Bush vetoed a \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program over five years...If House Republicans who are similar to the wrong side of the issue care about what their constituents think - or want to be re-elected - they also vote to override. Otherwise, they will have handed the Democrats a ready-made issue for 2008 and told the nation that the GOP doesn't care much about our kids." [10/9/07]

Wichita Eagle (Kansas), "Kansans should help override veto"

"Since President Bush's veto last month of Congress' expansion of the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program, the debate has strayed even further from what should be the point -- that the expansion is the best available, affordable means to bring more of the nation's children off the uninsured rolls, where no American child belongs. The SCHIP bill, which would increase federal funding by \$35 billion over five years, was crafted in the spirit of strong bipartisanship that is mostly the stuff of dreams in Washington, D.C., these days. The vast majority of governors support it, as do the American Medical Association, the American Health Insurance Plans lobbying group and, according to polls, 63 percent of the American people...Congress should override it this week, preferably with the help of all of Kansas' senators and representatives." [10/14/07]

Lincoln Journal-Star (Nebraska), “SCHIP needs Nebraska delegation”

“The four Republicans in Nebraska’s congressional delegation need to return to our state’s fine tradition of responsible, pragmatic problem-solving when it comes to the controversial issue of providing health care for children. That means standing up against President Bush’s veto of legislation that would have expanded the successful State Children’s Health Insurance Program... The health care system in the United States becomes more dysfunctional every year. The Republicans in Nebraska’s congressional delegation need to stop being part of the problem and start working on solutions.” [10/7/07]

Springfield News-Leader (Missouri), “Rep. Blunt should get behind bipartisan SCHIP proposal”

“There is not a more bipartisan measure making its way through Congress than the reauthorization of SCHIP, a program that sends federal money to the states and allows the states to set many of their own rules for passing on needed health care to mostly poor children who otherwise wouldn’t be covered by insurance. The measure has bipartisan support because politicians of both parties are beginning to listen to the repeated refrain they keep hearing from their constituents. Having 47 million uninsured Americans is unacceptable. Our health care costs are rising too quickly. And yes, even some folks in the middle class and folks with good jobs, are struggling to make ends meet because of health care costs... They want children to have health coverage. That’s the fundamental principle. The SCHIP bill gets us there, even if there are a few bumps along the way. Blunt and the other House Republicans who stand in the way of a veto override should adopt this principle, also, and pass the SCHIP compromise that puts children and their health care first.” [10/10/07]

Lexington Herald-Leader (Kentucky), “Children’s health care bill: Kentucky Republicans should help override veto”

“It’s interesting to hear Republicans in Congress defend President Bush’s veto of expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program by engaging in what could be called class warfare... The unspoken message is this: Almost 9 million American kids go without health coverage during some part of the year, and that number is rising. Uninsured kids come from families that are low-income, middle-income and, by Kentucky standards, filthy rich, if they live in New York where a dollar doesn’t go nearly as far as it does here. We would all be better off in the long run if all children had access to regular care that prevents serious medical problems down the road. Insuring kids is smart policy and good public health... Demo. Reps. Ben Chandler and John Yarmuth of Kentucky cast their votes for covering more kids. All the Republicans from Kentucky voted no -- a decision that Reps. Hal Rogers, Geoff Davis, Ron Lewis and Whitfield should seriously reconsider.” [10/7/07]

Albuquerque Tribune (New Mexico), “Bush’s veto of SCHIP is bad for America’s children and the GOP”

“Even in the calculating world of ideological and partisan politics, President Bush’s veto of the bill that would expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program is heartless and politically foolish... In his latest insult to party, country and people, Bush used only his fourth veto in seven years to block a public policy that is broadly endorsed by both political parties, most of the nation’s governors and virtually all public health agencies and medical associations. It’s a truly stunning action, when you consider that the federal debt has nearly doubled during Bush’s deficit-spending tenure, which has been everything but

fiscally responsible, let alone conservative. Now, when it comes to America's children, the federal government cannot afford to insure them against illness or death...The president is out of step with the country, its people and even key leaders of his own party... His veto must not stand, lest children die.' [10/9/07]

Newsday (New York), “Don’t give up the SCHIP: A fight for kids’ health is worth having”
“The surest sign that President George W. Bush is losing the war of words over government-funded health insurance for children is that he's now talking compromise. Bipartisan supporters of a bill to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program should hold firm. Their plan to cover millions of additional children is the right thing to do... Bush has vetoed the bill, but his opposition is ideological and partisan. He insists that expanding SCHIP would be a step toward socialized medicine, shift the focus from the market and cost too much. He has proposed a miserly \$5-billion increase that wouldn't even cover the rising costs of continuing to cover the children currently enrolled... This is a fight worth having. If Congress wins, so will the nation's children.” [10/9/07]

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, “Children’s Health: A national priority”
“If other Republicans want to help working families, the quickest route would be for a few more of them to agree to override the president's veto of a bipartisan plan for expanding insurance opportunities. The president put preserving insurers' market shares ahead of protecting kids...In this state, only U.S. Rep. Hastings backs Bush, with an ever-changing array of explanations. The bottom line remains the same: Without the bipartisan bill, more kids than necessary will be denied coverage, even if Bush does compromise.” [10/8/07]

The Register-Herald (West Virginia), “Editorial: CHIP – No more middle ground needed to ensure health care for kids”
“President Bush seemed to think the bill called for too much money, covered too many children, and would have put America on the slippery slope to universal health care. Let’s hope the president re-thinks this issue, which he has said he would, and that politicians working to override the veto can get with Mr. Bush and find a middle ground that keeps CHIP a viable resource.” [10/9/07]

Hartford Courant (Connecticut) “Override Health Care Veto”
“The president is out of touch with the struggle of working families to afford decent health care coverage. Expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, will help insure more young people whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford ever-rising premiums... The president can't argue that the nation doesn't have the dollars to expand this successful program for children when billions are being spent on an unpopular war... Congress has two weeks to muster the votes to override Mr. Bush's veto. Will it choose to take positive action on one of the most pressing domestic issues, or will it say no to 4 million children who could be added to the health insurance rolls?” [10/8/07]

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “Lawmakers baby seniors...then fail to even throw children the health insurance lifeline that they need”
“Georgia voters should take note at what a difference four years makes in the politics of health care. The state's popular and highly successful PeachCare program, which about 280,000 Georgia children rely on

coverage, will be in jeopardy if the veto is sustained...Republican members of the Georgia delegation claim to be worried about the cost of the bill and its impact on the federal budget. Yet, the proposed \$3 billion expansion is a pittance compared to the 2003 Medicare expansion...To provide cover for their actions, critics of the expansion, including the Georgia Republicans, have resorted to scare tactics, misrepresentations and outright lies about how the program would work...Don't let them off the hook easily. They should be held accountable for why the youngest among us deserve less than what the government guarantees for the oldest." [10/14/07]

Baltimore Sun, "SCHIP on the Merits"

"No one likes being bullied. But we urge Mr. Bartlett to reconsider the various options for SCHIP on the merits. This is a program designed primarily by Senate Republicans to help the growing ranks of working people who can't get insurance through employers and can't afford the full cost of buying it on their own. It's been a great success...Mr. Bartlett is rooting for a compromise that would help less-needy folks buy insurance with refundable tax credits. He says he wants to maintain their control over health care choices. But too often, one financial setback leaves families with no control and no choices. For them, SCHIP is a vital safety net." [10/11/07]

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, "Override president on children's health insurance bill"

"President Bush's veto of a bill that would have allowed about 4 million of the 9 million American children who don't have health insurance to get coverage is no surprise. Neither is his mendacious defense of blackballing the rare bipartisan legislation. In typical fashion, Bush argues with half- and stretched-out truths. That's because the veto is indefensible." [10/8/07]

San Bernardino County Sun (California), "Override Bush's veto of SCHIP bill"

"The U.S. House of Representatives should vote to override President Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, when it takes up the issue Oct. 18. A bill ensuring that low-income American children have access to basic health care is not a proper venue for political games...President Bush, who pushed the federal deficit to staggering levels with Iraq war spending and also by promoting new entitlement programs such as prescription drug coverage under Medicare, picked the wrong bill to veto in his belated quest to pose as a fiscal conservative. Congress should override the veto." [10/7/07]

Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania), "Children's Health Insurance: Three Pennsylvania Republicans need to stop opposing SCHIP compromise"

"SCHIP has broad support across both parties. The current bill has a five-year sunset provision, so, if it turns out to be bad policy, it can be revisited. Members of Congress already have compromised, shifting the source of funds to cover SCHIP from Medicaid programs to an expanded tobacco tax...Only three Pennsylvanians -- Republicans John E. Peterson of Centre County, Joseph R. Pitts of Lancaster and Bill Franklin Shuster of Hollidaysburg -- are opposing this reasonable bill. For the good of families across the country, they need to get on the right side." [10/7/07]

Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, Massachusetts), "Ideology and kid's health"

"President Bush's veto of legislation providing an overdue expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) is the latest of many examples of the foolishness that can result when

ideology is allowed to trump all else, including logic and fairness... Ideology should never get in the way of good government, as it has with the expansion of the children's health insurance program. Another 200 legislators are needed to override the veto in the House, and if enough Republicans care about their constituents, and their re-election hopes, to change their votes, this expansion of a valuable program can still overcome ideology and become law." [\[10/7/07\]](#)

Providence Journal, "Health-care hypocrisy"

"President Bush's veto of a plan to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program because he and his allies fear that it would tend to drive people from private insurers is sad, and notably hypocritical... Congress needs to override this veto pronto and start trying honestly to bring the chaotic, unjust and wasteful American health system, which legislators protect themselves from, to a level commensurate with other "developed" nations' systems." [\[10/7/07\]](#)

#

[Visit Speaker.gov](#)