



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rahm Emanuel, Chairman
John B. Larson, Vice Chair

To: Members of the House Democratic Caucus
From: House Democratic Caucus Communications Office
Re: Poll: Bush on Wrong Side of SCHIP Debate

Yesterday, President Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to give 10 million low-income children health care, a decision that leaves him and the rubberstamp Congressional Republicans who support his decision dangerously out of step with the American people.

The attached Democracy Corps poll analysis indicates that expanding SCHIP enjoys broad support among independent voters, and in vulnerable Democratic districts. Additionally, the memo notes that health care is overwhelmingly voters top domestic policy concern.

Highlights from the memo are included below and the complete document is attached to this email.

Voters in Moderate Districts Back SCHIP Expansion. Voters in moderate districts support Democratic efforts to expand SCHIP. The Democracy Corps analysis notes “Voters in Democratic held districts favor the expansion by a 33-point margin and even in Democrats’ most vulnerable districts -- those which switched in 2006 -- voters favor the expansion by a 32-point margin.”

“President Badly Loses The Debate Over SCHIP.” The Democracy Corps survey indicates that the American people overwhelmingly support expanding the number of children covered through SCHIP. The memo notes, “By 60 to 35 percent, voters side with the Democrats on this issue; indeed almost 40 percent strongly agree with a Democratic statement calling for an expansion of the S-CHIP program to insure more than 3 million children and paying for it by increasing the tax on a pack of cigarettes.”

Independents, Voters in Republican Districts Support SCHIP. The survey also notes “Independents align with Democrats in calling for an expansion of the program by a 34-point margin (62 to 28 percent),” and “Voters in Republican-held districts favor a Democratic statement calling for an expansion of the S-CHIP program by a 16-point margin (55 to 39 percent).”

Health Care Costs a Serious Problem. According to the Democracy Corps survey, 92% of the American people believe rising health care costs are a serious problem, with 62% calling the problem “very serious.” The memo notes “concerns about health care costs are

higher now than at any point in the past 4 years.” Additionally, the memo notes, “health care is the top domestic priority for voters and has risen in importance since April.”