

Murphy Vows to Continue to Fight for Kids Health Care

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Contact: Kristen Bossi

(202) 225-4476

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Despite overwhelming support from the American people, President Bush's veto of bipartisan legislation to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) program to cover ten million children nationwide withstood an override attempt today in the House of Representatives. Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) vowed to continue to fight for expanding health care coverage to millions of uninsured children nationwide, including 28,000 in Connecticut that could have been covered under this bill.

"This vote is merely one temporary setback in a battle in which we have the majority of the American people on our side. It makes sense to begin to reform our nation's broken health care system by helping the neediest members of our society - kids from low-income families. President Bush was wrong to veto this bill, and I won't let this vote be the final blow in the effort to cover uninsured kids," said Murphy.

Here are the facts on SCHIP:

- SCHIP currently provides health care coverage for 6.6 million kids from low-income, working families. Connecticut's SCHIP program, known as HUSKY B, currently covers more than 23,000 kids in Connecticut.
- The \$35 billion agreement that the President vetoed would extend dependable health coverage to nearly four million more low-income, uninsured American children over the next five years, including 28,000 in Connecticut.
- The bill does not raise the eligibility level for SCHIP – it actually establishes a new financial enticement for states to enroll children BELOW 200% of poverty.
- According to a CBS News poll released just yesterday, eight in 10 Americans favor expanding SCHIP, including large majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

"Kids get sick, and parents are going to make sure that their children see a doctor. Right now, they are getting crisis care, the most expensive care on the market. This fight isn't over because it is fiscally and morally responsible to expand SCHIP. The American people think so, and so does a bipartisan majority in Congress – once again, the President and a handful of his friends have insulated themselves from the deafening drumbeat of public opinion," said Murphy.

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