

# **Help Keep Kids Covered**

## **Support the SCHIP Extension Act of 2007**

### **The Problem**

- The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will expire on September 30, 2007, unless Congress can pass legislation to extend it.
- State-submitted data show that an expiration of programmatic funding will lead to 13 states almost immediately expending the last of their existing federal SCHIP funding, and by the end of FY08, 36 states will completely run out of federal SCHIP funding.
- Unless SCHIP is reauthorized, an estimated 4.8 million children would lose federal funding for their health care coverage by the end of FY08.

### **The Solution: SCHIP Extension Act of 2007**

- To address the problem of the impending expiration of SCHIP funding, Rep. Joe Barton, Rep. Nathan Deal and more than 100 original co-sponsors introduced the SCHIP Extension Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize and fully fund the existing SCHIP program for an additional 18 months.
- The SCHIP Extension Act increases the level of federal funding available to the states in order to ensure that every state's SCHIP program will be fully funded during this reauthorization period.
- The bill provides \$6.5 billion for FY08 and \$3.6 billion for the first six months of FY09. Specifically, the bill would continue the current federal funding level of \$5 billion per year and add an additional \$1.5 billion for FY08 and an additional \$1.1 billion for the first six months of FY09.
- Funding amounts are in line with the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's March 2007 Baseline for the SCHIP program.
- According to CBO estimates, the funding increases in the SCHIP Extension Act will ensure that no state would have to reduce their SCHIP benefits package or change their current SCHIP eligibility standards due to a lack of Federal funding. This bill fully funds SCHIP for the entire 18-month period.
- Overall, this bill increases total federal SCHIP funding by more than 33 percent over current levels.