

This is not just about health insurance.

It's about giving parents peace of mind. It's about keeping children healthy so they do well in school.

It's about preparing the next generation of Americans to live better lives.

In his campaign, President Bush declared that "America's children must have a healthy start in life."

He pledged to "lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance programs."

But vetoing this bill will do just the opposite.

It will mean that fewer children receive health coverage, not more.

Our bipartisan action today matches the President's commitment of the past.

We urge him to sign this bill, and give new hope to millions of low-income working families who can't afford health care for their children.

President Bush and every Member of Congress have good health care coverage for their children.

We owe all the children of America nothing less.

### **Massachusetts CHIP Facts**

- There are currently 112,000 children in Massachusetts that have no insurance
- Massachusetts currently has 90,500 children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program
  - They are currently enrolled at up to 300% of the federal poverty level (\$61,950 for family of four)
- Under the bill, Massachusetts will receive an estimated \$304.8 million in fiscal year 2008
  - The Commonwealth needs \$277 million to take care of the 90,500 children currently enrolled in SCHIP for 2008.
- With the bill, Massachusetts could cover as many as 27,400 children who are now uninsured over the next five years.

- If Congress had allowed the program to expire without providing any funds, the Commonwealth would have been out of money as of OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>

***From poll conducted by Children's Hospital in Boston-***

- Nearly 7 in 10 Mass. voters (69%) want Congress to provide enough funding to expand CHIP. Only 7% would favor keeping funding at current levels, which would result in dropping children from the program.
- Massachusetts voters reject the argument that there are other more important funding priorities and they disagree that cutting taxes should take precedence over children's health. About three quarters of voters reject both these arguments, including majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats, as well as voters from all income levels.

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