

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON THE PRESIDENT'S
THREAT TO VETO SCHIP**

WASHINGTON, DC— Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released the following statement in response to President Bush's threat to veto the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

"This is a cruel threat to needy children and I urge the President to reconsider. It's outrageous that there are nearly 9 million uninsured children in America and over 600,000 more since 2005. This Administration has failed on healthcare and our children are paying the price. Congress has been working in a bipartisan way to get a Children's Health Insurance Program bill that will make quality health care available to children of working families. This bill will allow children to get the quality healthcare they deserve, and should be signed into law before the program expires next week. After watching hundreds of thousands of children lose their health coverage on his watch, it's incomprehensible that President Bush would veto the bill that fixes the problem. This is a cruel threat to needy children and I urge the President to reconsider."