

## **Time to Act: KidCare Reform is a Bipartisan Commitment**

September 3, 2007

Dear Editor,

If we are serious about giving every child the opportunity for a good life and a good education, and if we are serious about strengthening Florida's future, then we need to make sure every child in Florida has access to quality, affordable health care.

Children's health insurance is one of the best partnerships in our nation. The federal government, the States, nonprofits, and parents all join together to help ensure quality health care for our kids. Like you, I strongly believe no parent in Florida should have to worry about being able to afford to take a sick child to the doctor, no sick child should go without health care, and no child should go without preventative health care, and that is why Florida's KidCare program is so important.

Current estimates are that more than a half million Florida children are without health insurance of any kind. (Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Health Insurance Study at 3) The KidCare program is designed to provide coverage to children whose parents do not qualify for Medicaid, and who do not make enough income to afford private health insurance.

In 2004, the legislature enacted changes to the KidCare program that actually made it more difficult for parents to enroll their children and keep them enrolled in this critical program.

Children's health care is not a partisan issue. A package of reforms was proposed in this year's legislative session with wide, bi-partisan support including Governor Crist, CFO Alex Sink, and most legislative leaders, but the legislature failed to act on this important reform bill.

I ask you to join me and contact your State Legislators and State Senators and urge them to take up this urgent piece of legislation in the upcoming September legislative special session. The health and future of hundreds of thousands of our children are at risk. Our kids deserve better, and they can't wait until 2008.

Sincerely

Suzan Franks  
652 E. Dakota Ct.  
Hernando, FL 34442