

Dear Editor,

By now it comes as no secret that the President is staunchly opposed to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act which he vetoed on October 4, 2007. This Act, also referred to as KidCare in Florida, which passed both the House and the Senate in late September, garnered support from both sides of the isle – 265 members of the House voted for it, including 44 Republicans.

The challenges we face when it comes to health care are incredibly complex, but the CHIP Reauthorization Act wasn't. It was a bill that was straightforward, and perhaps that is what attracted such significant support from both Democrats and Republicans. The bill provided health insurance for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private health insurance. This measure has been in place for 10 years, and has enabled 6.6 million children to go to the doctor, and almost everyone agrees that American children who need medical care should get it.

This vetoed measure would have increased funding for child health care insurance from \$5 billion per year program to \$7 billion over the next 5 years and would have provided an additional 3.4 million children access to a family doctor. The President has taken the position that the (CHIP) Reauthorization Act is too expensive. This position has been taken by the President after he has asked for \$190 billion to fund the war in Iraq this year alone. It is hard to believe that covering these children poses an unacceptable risk to our financial solvency and appears short sighted for the future of our kids and our grandkids.

Let's join together and make Congress put the partisan rhetoric to rest, put the kids first, and overturn the Presidential veto of this vital and important program to protect the health of our most vulnerable children. The vote to override is scheduled for October 18th, please contact Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite's office and urge her to override the veto of the (CHIP) Reauthorization Act today at : Brooksville office (352) 799-8354 or her Washington, D.C. office at: (202) 225-1002 and Sen. Mel Martinez at: Orlando office (407) 254-2573 or Washington, D.C. office at: (202) 224-3041

Sincerely,
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