



Center for Public Policy Priorities

POLICY ALERT

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Call Right Now: Revised CHIP Bill Up for Vote

There will be a vote **WITHIN AN HOUR OR TWO** on a revised Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. This bill is particularly important for Texas, which has the highest rate of children without health insurance in the country.

House members worked in a bipartisan way to meet objections to the previous bill. Several Texas House members, including Representatives McCaul, Granger, and Neugebauer earlier signed a letter urging the very changes which have been made to the legislation.

Please urge your congressional representative to vote yes on the revised legislation, which will provide health care to 10 million children (CHIP now covers 6 million; this bill would allow another 4 million to gain coverage). Otherwise, every day 2,000 children will join the ranks of the uninsured.

Don't delay. Please call 1-800-965-4701 (courtesy of the American Friends Service Committee) to leave a message for your legislator. Find your legislator at <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>.

This is a good bill we can all support! The bill still covers 10 million children while making important, concrete changes to address the concerns of legislators who voted against the old bill. Most notably, the new bill:

- Sharpens the focus on "low-income children." The bill unequivocally ends any flexibility for states to adopt new expansions to children above 300% FPL. In other words, NO state will be allowed to cover children up to \$83,000 a year.
- Sharpens the focus on "poor children first." Through changes to the performance bonus structure, the revamped legislation sharpens the focus of the CHIP reauthorization legislation on enrolling the lowest income children who generally don't have any access to employer-based coverage. By increasing the focus on the lowest income children, the legislation manages to cover even more children than the original bill, but with less "crowd out," meaning less shifting from private insurance to CHIP.
- More rapidly eliminates coverage of childless adults. The legislation phases out coverage of childless adults in one year.
- Makes concrete changes to guarantee that only U.S. citizens and certain legal immigrants are enrolled in CHIP.

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