



CALIFORNIA STATE PTA

LEGISLATION INFORMATION ALERT

DATE: October 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA ACTION ON SCHIP

Congress approved bipartisan legislation that would increase federal contributions for the State Children's Health Insurance Program spending by \$35 billion over five years, paid for by a 61-cent cigarette tax increase. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the \$35 billion increase would allow **4 million children** who would otherwise be uninsured to be covered by 2012. The current program enrolls nearly 6.6 million children nationwide from low-income families not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. In California alone approximately 800,000 children need medical insurance.

Following the President's veto of the bipartisan legislation on October 3, the California State PTA has undertaken the following:

- Issued a [PRESS RELEASE](#) on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 expressing disappointment in the President's veto.
- Issued a [LEGISLATIVE ALERT](#) and call for action on Friday, October 5, 2007.
PTA members throughout California have been contacting Senators Boxer and Feinstein and their local Congressman by phone, fax, letter and email.
- Mailed and faxed 40 letters under California State PTA President Pam Brady's signature to the California Congressional delegation members thanking them for their support of the bipartisan legislation with a request that they support the action to override the veto.
- Mailed and faxed 15 letters under President Pam Brady's signature to the California Congressional delegation members that did not support the bipartisan legislation with a strong request that they support the action to override the veto.
- Developed a Letter to the Editor submittal under PTA Leader signatures to newspapers throughout the State.

The House of Representatives will consider the action to override the veto on October 18, 2007.

Please continue to request PTA members and those interested in the well being of children to contact their policymakers in Washington D.C. See the above Legislative Alert.

Initiate a petition gathering signatures with addresses to fax to your Congressional policy makers by Tuesday, October 16.

This issue is vital to the health and well being of California's children!

California State PTA President Pam Brady's Letter to the Congressional Delegation:

Dear [Congressman](#):

I'm writing to you on a matter of critical importance to the State of California. The California State PTA and its nearly one million volunteer members urge your "yes" vote to override President's veto on the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

This bi-partisan legislation approved by Congress would expand SCHIP spending by \$35 billion over five years, paid for by a 61-cent cigarette tax increase. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the \$35 billion increase would allow **4 million children** who would otherwise be uninsured to be covered by 2012.

The current program enrolls nearly 6.6 million children nationwide from low-income families not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. In California, there are 1.1 million children who currently benefit from the program - 830,000 children enrolled in "Healthy Families" and 250,000 in Medi-Cal - as well as 8,000 pregnant mothers in the Access for Infants and Mothers program. Under the President's SCHIP plan, 200,000 to 400,000 children in California would lose coverage by 2008, according to advocates.

Children's health is critical to the well-being, academic success and life outcomes of our nation. Better health status can improve educational outcomes, thereby resulting in higher wages and improved economic well-being later in life.

Please do the right thing for California's children. Vote "yes" to override President's veto.

Sincerely,
Pam Brady, President
California State PTA
everychild. onevoice.

If you would like to be added to our "Legislation email alert list," please send your name and email address to leginfo@capta.org.