



---

CPPP STATEMENT ON SCHIP VOTE

We are disappointed that Congress did not vote today to override the President's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. Texas benefits when all Texas children have regular health care. Healthy children grow into healthy adults better able to contribute to our economy and participate in our democracy.

By 2012, this bipartisan legislation would have provided health insurance to almost 4 million children who would otherwise have had none, including many Texas children. CHIP has been particularly important to Texas because we have 1.5 million uninsured kids (1 out of every 5 Texas children), the highest percentage of uninsured children in the country. Too many Texas children live in families that earn too little to afford private health insurance.

When a country cannot provide routine health care to its children, it has a fundamental system failure. Yet, with 2,000 more children joining the ranks of the uninsured every day, neither the President nor Texas congressional delegation members who voted with him have a plan for how to provide our children health care.

Already the calls for "compromise" have begun, but the bipartisan bill the President vetoed was already a compromise. Further concessions will only mean only that fewer children will have health care.

Having made the President's veto possible, our congressional delegation has a responsibility to put a plan forward to make significant progress toward reducing the number of insured Texas children.

###