



## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 23, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bill Jordan, Policy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

505-244-9505 ext. 11 (p), 505-350-3097 (c), [bjordan@nmvoices.org](mailto:bjordan@nmvoices.org)

OR: Sharon Kayne, Communications Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

505-244-9505 ext. 30 (p), 505-401-8709 (c), 505-244-9509 (f), [skayne@nmvoices.org](mailto:skayne@nmvoices.org)

### **Child advocates praise Senate passage of measures to safeguard children's health care**

ALBUQUERQUE—Advocates for extending health coverage for all children are praising yesterday's passage by the U.S. Senate of a \$165 billion war supplemental bill, which included a moratoria on regulations put in place by the Bush Administration on Medicaid. The regulations would lead to large cuts in federal Medicaid funding for states. A recent report from Families USA estimated that New Mexico would lose \$183.2 million in the first year alone.

The supplemental bill had already passed the House with the moratoria intact. However, the Senate approved an amendment earlier this week that would stave off similar cuts to the popular State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). The amendment imposes a moratorium on the August 17, 2007 directive that limits states' ability to cover children from moderate-income families who do not have insurance. The previously-passed House bill did not address the S-CHIP directive. The Senate bill will be sent to the House for final approval.

"This is good news for the children of New Mexico," said Bill Jordan, Policy Director of the child advocacy organization. "The Medicaid regulations and S-CHIP directive would have severely cut funding for children's health care and almost inevitably led to cuts in benefits and enrollment," he added.

The domestic spending part of the Senate bill was approved in a veto-proof, stand-alone vote of 75-22. "New Mexicans should be proud and grateful that both of our senators stood up for kids' health care," Jordan said.

###

New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.

2340 Alamo SE, Suite 120, Albuquerque, NM 87106-3523; 505-244-9505 (p); [www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)