



PRESS RELEASE

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SCHIP Veto Override Failure Shows Wrong Priorities

ALBUQUERQUE— Today's failure to override President Bush's veto of the popular State Children's Health Insurance Program – SCHIP – will likely force states to limit or reduce health insurance for children of low-income families, New Mexico Voices for Children Executive Director said.

"It's tragic enough that millions of American children are without routine medical care today," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of the child advocacy organization. "But to leave behind millions of the children who are now enrolled in SCHIP is a step in the wrong direction. Unfortunately, that's what states will have to do if Congress passes the SCHIP bill that the president wants because it does not include enough funding to maintain current levels of service."

Four out of five members of New Mexico's congressional delegation voted to override the president's veto. While there was strong support for a veto override in the Senate, the House today failed to muster the 290 votes needed for an override, which failed on a vote of 273-156.

"We urge Congress to stand strong and not further compromise children's health care," Griego said. "Most Governors, members of Congress, and the American people support SCHIP reauthorization and expansion, and those who oppose it should be held accountable for its affect on the country's neediest kids."

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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.

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