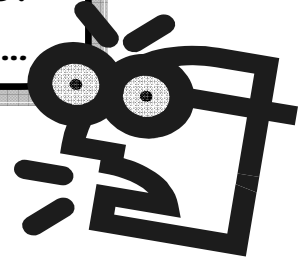


TALKING POINTS

when your Members of Congress say:

I voted against
CHIP because...



NOTE: SCHIP = the program that expired Sept. 30, 2007; CHIP = the name of the new program

“This is about moving our country toward socialized medicine.”

No, this is about doing the right thing for our children. It's a matter of deciding what we value as a nation, where we point our moral compass, and how we choose to spend our abundant resources. Until the time when we can agree that everyone should have needed health care, the least we can do is take care of our children. It's simply the moral thing to do.

“It will give free health care to immigrant children.”

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. There are provisions to make it easier for LEGAL immigrant children to enroll in the program. This bill addresses the fact that the number of uninsured LEGAL immigrant children is steadily rising.

National Conference of State Legislatures <<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/forum/pub6682.htm#schipandaccess>>

“It will encourage people to drop private coverage for CHIP.”

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates for children leaving private coverage to enroll in CHIP or Medicaid are sometimes misused. A large share of those in the CBO estimates are children who are uninsured now but who would obtain private coverage at some point if CHIP or Medicaid coverage were not available to them. These are not children who have private coverage that their families would voluntarily drop to enroll in CHIP. Further, this bill makes provisions for premium assistance to keep people in the private insurance market.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <<http://www.cbpp.org/9-25-07health2.htm>>

“It will provide health care for affluent families who make up to \$83,000!”

The bill does not change current law. No family making \$83,000 will be eligible for CHIP. In fact, 78% of the newly covered children live in families with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level. New guidelines for states will make it difficult for states to raise eligibility above 250% of the federal poverty level (\$51,625 for a family of four).

Urban Institute <<http://www.urban.org/publications/411545.html>>

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities <<http://www.cbpp.org/9-25-07health2.htm>>

“The cigarette tax projections won't cover the proposed funding.”

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has indicated that this bill meets the Pay-Go funding standards. That means they have taken into consideration the likely reduction in the number of smokers due to the cigarette tax increase.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids <<http://tobaccofreekids.org>>

Congressional Budget Office <<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/86xx/doc8655/hr976.pdf>>

“The program is fine as is; people are just too lazy to apply.”

The barriers to enrollment and re-enrollment are well-documented. This bill will improve the enrollment procedures and provide funds for outreach to children who are eligible but not currently enrolled.

Kaiser Family Foundation <<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/enrollment.cfm>>

FAITHFUL REFORM IN HEALTH CARE

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