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## **Expanding SCHIP:**

A Legislative History of the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009



Edited by: William H. Manz



The State Child Health Insurance Program is a program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that provides matching funds to states for children's health insurance. The program was designed with intent to cover uninsured children in families with incomes that are modest but too high to qualify for Medicaid.

At its creation in 1997, SCHIP was the largest expansion of taxpayer-funded health insurance coverage for children in the United States since Medicaid began in the 1960s.

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reguthorization Act of



The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 continues coverage through 2013 for 7 million lower-income families and expands it to include another 4.1 million previously uninsured children. Included in the Act are 2.4 million children who otherwise might not have access to private insurance.



The Act also provides \$100 million in grants to permit states, local governments, schools and others to enroll more eligible children. It requires states to offer a dental benefit, and allows them to offer SCHIP dental coverage to children whose private medical insurance does not cover dental visits. Also permitted is extending SCHIP and Medicaid to newly-arrived legal immigrant children and pregnant women.





## Expanding SCHIP

Although the expansion of children's health insurance coverage received strong support in the 110th Congress, efforts to include such provisions in a Reauthorization Act failed because of the opposition of President Bush. The President twice vetoed such bills, claiming that they "would move health care in the wrong direction." Efforts were made in the House to override the vetoes, but were unsuccessful.

In January 2009, the heavily Democratic 111th Congress moved quickly to enact a children's health insurance law. The bill was signed into law by President Obama on February 4, 2009.

Expanding SCHIP: A Legislative History of the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 contains all the versions of the vetoed bills and the successful 2009 legislation. Also included are the debates in the 110th and 111th Congresses, the Bush vetoes, and hearings held on the issue of children's health insurance in 2006 and 2007.

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