



News Release

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Bipartisan Agreement to Renew, Improve Children’s Health Insurance Program a Major Step Forward

Salt Lake City —Senator Orrin Hatch helped lead a bipartisan group of House and Senate leaders to an agreement released today to renew and strengthen the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. The Utah Health Policy Project encourages the rest of Utah’s Congressional delegation to support the Hatch brokered agreement and urges President to Bush to sign the legislation before September 30th.

“Health care for our kids isn’t a partisan issue, it’s a national priority, and this bipartisan agreement will enable 4 million American children who would otherwise be uninsured to get the coverage they need for a healthy start in life,” said Lincoln Nehring, Utah Health Policy Project’s Medicaid Policy Director.

“President Bush has unfortunately threatened to veto this much needed legislation. However, Utah’s representatives in Congress should stand with Senator Hatch on behalf of a healthier future for America and approve this vitally important bill before CHIP expires on September 30.”

Roughly 80,000 children lack health coverage in Utah, according to Census Bureau figures released last month. ”CHIP is a vital tool in Utah’s efforts to get those kids the health care coverage they need,” Mr. Nehring said. “We applaud Senator Hatch and Representative Matheson’s strong support in getting CHIP through Congress. We encourage the rest of Utah’s delegation to help make sure this agreement becomes law—even if that means overriding President Bush’s veto.”

Note to Reporters: UHPP staff can arrange interviews with CHIP Families, uninsured individuals and providers. Please call our office: (801) 433-2299.

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