



News Release & Media Advisory

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Utah Grandmas Demand Congress Override Bush's CHIP Veto (Event on invite all grandmas of uninsured children to join 'Grandmas on the Move for Children's Health

Salt Lake City — The Utah Health Policy Project is saddened by President Bush's decision to veto the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and strongly encourages Utah's Congressional Delegation to overturn the veto and reauthorize this crucial program.

Over the last year, Utah Senator Orrin Hatch has worked tirelessly on a bipartisan bill that would help millions of uninsured children get the health care they need. His efforts led to Congress's passage of CHIP Reauthorization legislation last week that provides resources that could cut the 80,000 uninsured Utah in half. Nationally, Congress's bill would add \$35 billion to CHIP over the next five years to cover approximately 10 million children: 6.6 million children who are currently enrolled and 4 million children who will be uninsured without this bill; the bill also makes much needed improvements in the program:

- It gives states new tools to conduct outreach to enroll eligible, hard-to-reach uninsured children; and
- it strengthens the CHIP benefit package by guaranteeing dental health and mental health benefits.

Gerry, the grandmother of two boys with cystic fibrosis who received their life-saving diagnosis through CHIP, said "[President Bush] is ignorant of the fact that by his veto he is denying the most needy in our country." "We want Congressman Cannon and the rest of Utah's delegation to know we can't stand for this veto, it must be overridden."

"Utahns know that providing health coverage to children is an important investment in Utah's future. To ensure that Utah's policy leaders understand this, the Utah Health Policy Project is following the lead of "Grandma May" to form "Grandmas on the Move for Children's Health," Lincoln Nehring, Medicaid Policy Director at the Utah Health Policy Project said. "Grandmas on the Move is comprised of grandmothers (and grandpas) who are saying enough is enough re- the hold up on SCHIP re-authorization.

They will be visiting Utah's Congressional Delegation to ask that our members of Congress do the right thing and vote to override President Bush's veto."

Grandmas on the Move for Children's Health has called a press conference and rally for next Friday.

When: Friday, October 12, 2007 11:00 AM-11:45 AM

Where: Location TBA.

For further information contact Lincoln Nehring at UHPP: 801-433-2299 (cell: 801-638-7695).

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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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