



NEWS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement attributable to:
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Policy Director
Colorado Community Health Network

Children's Health: Vetoed

DENVER— October 1 was National Child Health Day. Today President Bush vetoed legislation that would have helped up to four million of the uninsured children in our country get the health care they need. President Bush vetoed legislation that would have given the parents of these children peace of mind.

Failure to continue the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and build on its successes will jeopardize our children's future.

At current funding levels, Colorado can cover only about half of the eligible children in our state, about 50,000 children. Thousands more uninsured Colorado children would have been eligible for the program under the bill vetoed by President Bush. The compromise bill passed by the House and Senate would have provided Colorado with eight percent – \$13 million – more federal funding. These funds would have allowed Colorado to cover more of the children who are eligible for but not enrolled in CHP+ under current guidelines.

Without these additional funds Colorado's SCHIP program, the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) will start running a deficit four years from now. That means that even the kids who are currently enrolled in the program will be in jeopardy of losing the coverage that enables them to get the health care they need.

SCHIP represents one-quarter of one percent of the federal budget. Yet it serves millions of children.

It's a shame that children's health is celebrated one day, then vetoed two days later.

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Colorado Community Health Centers care for one-third of the children in CHP+. To interview Ms. Anderson, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2007. CCHN is Colorado's Primary Care Association, representing 14 non-profit Community Health Centers (CHCs) operating 118 sites across the state. CHCs provide comprehensive primary health care in community, migrant, homeless, and school-based health centers to one in twelve Coloradans. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.