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## **Children's Health Advocates Praise President Obama's Commitment to Children's Health Coverage in National Health Care Reforms**

*While Urging California's Legislature to Reject Governor Schwarzenegger's Proposed Budget that Slashes Children's Health Coverage*

Sacramento, CA February 23, 2010 – The California Children's Health Initiatives (CCHI), a coalition of 29 counties dedicated to ensuring that all California children have access to quality health coverage, commend President Obama for his newly announced reforms to the national health care system and his leadership in bringing together Republicans and Democrats during the recent White House Health Care Summit. Not only does the President preserve existing coverage programs, but he recommends expanding coverage for children.

"We're very pleased with the President's proposed health care reforms because they make children a priority," said Suzie Shupe, Executive Director of The California Children's Health Initiatives. "His support of programs like Healthy Families and Medi-Cal shows he is in touch with what the American people want in putting children first."

A recent poll shows that 89% of Americans are in favor of ensuring that all children having access to health coverage. In fact, support for children's health care coverage ranked highest of all health policy issues.

CCHI also applauds the President's proposal to cover even more children through Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program. By increasing the federal government's contribution to these additional costs, he provides much welcomed relief just when California needs it. This is yet another signal that the federal government will reward states that prioritize covering uninsured children.

"While the President gives children's health coverage high priority, Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for California puts children close to last," said

Shupe. “His current proposal eliminates coverage for more than 200,000 children and puts coverage for almost a million children in jeopardy. We can’t let our legislature pass this budget. We must protect what matters most, our children.”

**About the California Children’s Health Initiatives (CCHI):**

The California Children’s Health Initiatives (CCHI) is a collaboration of Children’s Health Initiatives (CHIs) in 29 counties dedicated to ensuring that all California children have access to quality health coverage. Together, the CHIs emphasize streamlined enrollment into Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and Healthy Kids insurance programs, and share a goal of creating and maintaining a sustainable health care program for all children in California.

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