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California Children's Health Initiatives Praises Senate Passage of State Children's Health Insurance Program

Legislation expected to be one of the first measures President Obama signs into law after taking office just 10 days ago

Los Angeles, Calif. – Amy Carta and Bonnie Ferreira, Co-Chairs of the California Children's Health Initiatives (CCHI), issued the following statement in response to the United States Senate passage of a bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP):

"We applaud the U.S. Senate for their swift passage of the SCHIP reauthorization bill, which will help keep nearly one million California kids insured and give millions more children across the country access to health care to help them live strong, healthy lives. We urge President Obama to sign the bill as one of his first measures after taking the oath of office last week.

"SCHIP is the primary source of funding for the Healthy Families Program in California, which currently covers more than 900,000 children throughout the state. Recently, the economic downturn and an increase in unemployment filings have led to a record-high monthly enrollment into the program. Now more than ever it is important to keep this program going so that our children are assured access to the preventive care that is so crucial for their healthy growth and development.

"We are delighted that with the passage of this bill, Congress has made SCHIP and children's health care a top priority in 2009, and we look forward to President Obama following their commendable lead to help ensure that children's health needs are met."

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About the California Children's Health Initiatives (CCHI):

The California Children's Health Initiatives (CCHI) is a collaboration of local Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs) in 30 counties dedicated to ensuring that all California children have access to quality health care. 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.