

PRESIDENT BUSH CONTINUES TO MISLEAD AMERICA ON BIPARTISAN CHIP BILL

Democratic Legislation Meets President's Request to Target Children

This morning President Bush showed that he is either woefully misinformed or intentionally misleading America about the Children's Health Insurance Program legislation that passed the House last week, making the same incorrect accusations he made when Congress passed the first CHIP legislation. Today President Bush requested a bill that focuses on children, and that enrolls children who are eligible for CHIP but are not enrolled. The CHIP bill passed by the House meets these requests, focusing on low-income children and phasing out adults.

A comparison of CHIP legislation by Democrats and Republicans shows that the Democratic bill more effectively responds to the President's request by targeting the lowest-income children, which is demonstrated by a higher percentage of new enrollees being directed to Medicaid. The Democratic legislation also does more to prevent children from switching to CHIP from private insurance. On every point that Republicans say they have concerns about, the Democratic bill does more than their proposed legislation. If their concerns are genuine and not partisan, it is time for Republicans to come to an agreement, and support legislation that clearly meets their stated goals more effectively and efficiently than the Republican bill does:

	<u>DEMOCRATIC BILL</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN BILL (BOEHNER, BLUNT, BARTON BILL)</u>
Number of uninsured children covered	3.9 million	2.3 million
Number of lowest-income children covered through Medicaid	1.9 million	600,000
Percentage of new enrollees that are enrolled in Medicaid	29%	8%
Percentage of children switching to CHIP from private insurance	34%	39%