

# **THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES CHILD HEALTH DAY – BY VETOING CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE???**

Apparently the Bush White House still appreciates a good dose of irony now and then. The Bush Administration declared Monday as “Child Health Day” – while only this morning, President Bush used his veto pen to deny health insurance to 10 million children.

In the proclamation, President Bush himself even admitted:

*“On this day it is also appropriate to recognize the important role the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has played in helping poor children stay healthy . To preserve that role and ensure that poor children can get the coverage they need, SCHIP should be reauthorized.”*

So, if the President recognizes the importance of SCHIP in keeping children healthy, what made his veto this morning seem like a good idea?

Clearly, the President’s recognition of Child Health Day and the need for SCHIP echo the promise he made to the American people while on the campaign trail in 2004:

*“America's children must also have a healthy start in life . . . In a new term, we will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for government health insurance programs. We will not allow a lack of attention, or information, to stand between these children and the health care they need.”*

When will the President start living up to his word, and provide health care to children who need it most?

In a few weeks, House Republicans will have the chance to override the President’s ill-considered veto, and bring real meaning back to Child Health Day.