

QUESTIONS FOR REPUBLICANS ON THEIR OPPOSITION TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH LEGISLATION

*“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.” - George W. Bush, 2004*

House Republicans have needlessly politicized the CHAMP Act, a bill that is popular with the American public and that has bipartisan support in Congress. President Bush supported SCHIP when he was running for reelection; now that the election is over, Bush is threatening to veto health insurance for low-income children.

WILL THE PRESIDENT KEEP HIS PROMISE AND SUPPORT GIVING CHILDREN A HEALTHY START IN LIFE?

Senate Republicans also support SCHIP. The Senate Finance Committee passed the SCHIP renewal by a bipartisan vote of 17 to 4, with a majority of Republicans voting in favor of the bill. As Senator Hatch said on July 30: “We are trying to do what is right by our children, who are currently not being helped by our health care system... If we cover children properly, we will save billions of dollars in the long run. Even if we didn't [save billions], we should still take care of these children.” [Boston Globe, 7/31/07]

WILL HOUSE REPUBLICANS JOIN THEIR SENATE COLLEAGUES IN SUPPORTING SCHIP?

“This quarter is looking very good for [Democrats]. They can send their members home crowing about their accomplishments, and they've done it in a bipartisan way, which is exactly what they promised to do.” - Ray LaHood (R-IL), Washington Post, 7/26/07

House Republicans are afraid that Democrats are getting too much done for the American people. With an impressive list of legislation scheduled for the House Floor this week, Republicans are well aware that Democrats are making real progress on issues important to Americans, and will do anything to prevent passage of legislation that provides health insurance to 11 million children.

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO REPUBLICANS – CHILDREN OR POLITICS?

*“If we can agree on two or three hours of debate on the
SCHIP bill, we'll be more than happy to facilitate this process.”
- Minority Leader John Boehner, 7/31/07*

In order to prevent Democrats from completing our work for the American people, House Republicans irresponsibly delayed consideration of the CHAMP Act. The Republican Leader requested “two or three hours” to debate the CHAMP Act – a request that was granted. Because House Republicans know they cannot defend their opposition to providing health coverage for children, they have stalled, delayed, and held-up debate.

HOW LONG WILL REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO DENY HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN?

Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 8/1/07