

“This is a Defining Moment”

Vote on Children’s Health Insurance Will Haunt Republican Party

On Sunday, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said that the vote to override the President’s veto of CHIP would be a “defining moment” for Republicans – a sentiment with which many pundits, editorial boards, and Republicans agree.

Pundits Criticize Republicans for Making the Wrong Choice By Supporting Bush Over Children

“The Republicans’ circular firing squad is now assembled. All that’s left is for someone — President Bush, House Minority Leader John Boehner (Ohio) or Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) — to yell the appropriate command: “Fire!” With their House and Senate caucuses deeply divided, Republicans have one week to figure out exactly how they are going to avoid a public relations — and a political — disaster.”

- *Stuart Rothenberg, Roll Call, 10/11/07*

“The spectacle Tuesday of 151 House Republicans voting in lock step with the White House against expansion of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was one of the more remarkable sights of the year. Rarely do you see so many politicians putting their careers in jeopardy.”

- *David Broder, Washington Post, 9/27/07*

Editorial Boards Urge Republicans to Make the Right Choice, Vote to Override Veto

“When the House votes next week on whether to override President Bush’s veto of a children’s health insurance bill, any legislators from New York or New Jersey who fail to support this essential program will be sabotaging their own state’s program and, far worse, punishing their own state’s children. Most of those members recognized that and voted for the bill, except for a small band of Republicans. If they refuse to switch sides — out of ideology or misplaced loyalty to the White House — any who have the nerve to run for re-election deserve to be punished at the polls.” *[NY Times, 10/12/07]*

“[President Bush] would rather sacrifice the health of uninsured children than yield an inch of ideological ground. House Republicans ought to take a more humane approach and override the president’s blinkered obstinacy.” *[NY Times, 9/29/07]*

“If House Republicans who are similarly on the wrong side of the issue care about what their constituents think - or want to be re-elected - they also will vote to override.” *[Toledo Blade, 10/9/07]*

“If other Republicans want to help working families, the quickest route would be for a few more of them to agree to override the president’s veto of a bipartisan plan for expanding insurance opportunities.” *[Seattle Post Intelligencer, 10/8/07]*

Many Republicans Agree This is the Wrong Vote for Their Party

“One Republican Member of Congress... was just as explicit. ‘It’s stupid politics. The leadership is putting pressure on Members [to sustain the veto], promising to rebuild the brand. I don’t know why our guys are following [Bush] into the sea like lemmings.’” *[Roll Call, 10/11/07]*

“It’s wrong to oppose efforts to expand to cover more children.” *[Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-LA, Missouri News-Leader, 10/16/07]*