

Castle, Denn Call On Respective Colleagues To Support SCHIP Measure -- September 21, 2007

Dover,
DE - Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn and U.S. Rep. Mike Castle announced Friday that they are urging their colleagues to show strong support for federal reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Programs.

S-CHIP,
which provides federal funding to states to help provide low-cost health insurance to low-income families, is due to expire September 30. Congress is working on a measure that would reauthorize and expand it to include more children, something the president has threatened to veto.

"This program is close to my heart because as Governor, I worked with the Nemours Foundation to extend this health care program for children. I continue to believe this coverage is essential support reauthorizing and expanding SCHIP to ensure that all children who are eligible for this program will receive the quality health care they need. Ideally, the compromise reauthorization package will expand benefits without offsetting costs with cuts to Medicare programs, as the House bill proposed," said Delaware Congressman Michael Castle.

Commissioner
Denn has asked the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, which is meeting in Washington next weekend, to pass a resolution supporting S-CHIP. But on Friday, he emailed commissioners around the country urging them to contact their members of Congress soon.

"Given the threatened presidential veto of this reauthorization, it is important that the bill pass with a sufficient majority to withstand a presidential veto," Commissioner Denn wrote in his email. "S-CHIP programs are a significant part of the health coverage networks for children in each of our states, and expanding that coverage to additional children is a logical step toward lowering the number of uninsured children."

Commissioner
Denn recently announced a campaign to expand enrollment of low-income children in the state's existing S-CHIP program, which is called the Delaware Healthy Children Program and currently serves about 5,000 kids.

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