

Castle on Kids' Health Care -- October 15, 2007

Philadelphia, PA -- Congressman

Mike Castle (DE-R) joined a panel discussion hosted by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during the "Kids Come First Summit" and National Town

Hall Meeting to address the issue of access to health care for American children. Joining Rep. Castle on the panel was Governor

Ed Rendell (PA-D), Governor Ruth Ann Minner (DE-D), Governor John Corzine (NJ-D), and Senator Bob Casey (PA-D).

Panel was moderated by Sam Donaldson.

Rep. Castle spoke of the need to double efforts to enroll more of the already eligible children in health insurance programs like Medicaid and SCHIP -- citing the benefits of early access and prevention.

"I voted in favor of

the bill, which the President vetoed earlier this month, to allow an additional 4 million kids into the SCHIP program. While I also intend to vote to override the veto this Thursday in the House, it seems the House will fall short of the 2/3 majority necessary to override the veto.

Knowing this, House and Senate leaders should get back to the drawing board to find an agreeable compromise. The SCHIP program is far too important to give up now," Castle said.

"While we care for

the neediest among us, a fundamental issue must be addressed: Total health spending is expected to reach nearly \$2.3 trillion this year. We should all ask: Are we getting the best return on our investment? The fact that our healthcare outcomes are falling behind other developed countries would seem to suggest otherwise.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we can provide better

care for more Americans and at the same time squeeze more out of every tax dollar. Prevention and access to basic care, as we see in Delaware at the community health centers, and with our electronic health records, are helping to keep people healthier and living longer, better lives."

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