Children's Defense Fund®
Healthy Child Campaign

Americans' Perceptions About Children's Health Insurance

Key findings from nation-wide polls

The vast majority of Americans consider covering ***all*** children a national priority. Additionally, most Americans are willing to make financial sacrifices to meet that goal. What follows is a summary of key findings from several recent nationwide polls that reveal Americans' attitudes about the growing children's health crisis.

Americans believe that ALL children should have health insurance.

- 9 out of 10 Americans support the notion that **every child in America has a right to basic healthcare**.[1]
- 67% of Americans believe the **government is doing too little to provide health care to uninsured children**.[2]

Americans believe the government should take action to ensure that all children have health insurance.

- More than 7 out of 10 Americans believe that **the government should provide a national health insurance program for children, even if this would require higher taxes**.[3]
- More than 7 in 10 Americans believe that **"the federal government should take financial responsibility to cover uninsured children."**[4]

Americans want Congress to Support State Efforts to Cover Uninsured Children

- 8 in 10 Americans support **expanding a government program to provide health insurance to some middle-class, uninsured children**, and more than 7 in 10 of these would be willing to pay more taxes to fund such an expansion.[5]
- **72% of Americans support increasing federal spending on children's health insurance** by 35 billion over the next five years.[6]
- **65% of Americans support increased funding for the program, even after hearing opponents' argument** that expansion would encourage some families who have private health insurance to drop it in favor of government-funded coverage, and that expansion will cover some children in middle-class families.[2]
- **Support for the CHIP bill includes majorities across all party lines**, including**:**
  - 81% of Democrats
  - 69% of Independents
  - 61% of Republicans[5]
- More than a third of voters said that **if their Member of Congress were opposed to expansion of SCHIP, they would be more likely to vote against them** in the next election**.**[2]
- 67% say they **disapprove of President Bush's decision to veto legislation passed by Congress to expand CHIP**, and 64% believe that **Congress should vote to overturn the veto**.[2]

Sources:

[1] First Focus National Survey (July 2007)
[2] NPR/Harvard School of Public Health/Kaiser Family Foundation "Public Views on SCHIP Reauthorization" (October 2007)
http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/7703.pdf
[3] CNN National Poll (May 2007)
[4] Catholic Health Association national public opinion survey (June 2007)
http://ccf.georgetown.edu/pdfs/0723survey.pdf
[5] CBS News Poll (October, 2007)
[6] ABC News/ Washington Post Poll (September 2007)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll_100107.html

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