Children's Defense Fund®
Healthy Child Campaign

Timeline of SCHIP Reauthorization:

August 2007

Aug 01
House Passes Bill to Reauthorize SCHIP

The House passes the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (HR 3162).
The CHAMP Act would provide health coverage to 4.1 million uninsured children. The legislation provides nearly $50 billion in additional funding over five years and is paid for by an increase in the federal tobacco tax (additional 41 cents per pack of cigarettes) and cuts in overpayments to private Medicare plans (known as Medicare Advantage Plans). The latter funding source is opposed by private insurance companies but supported by a wide range of groups including the Children's Defense Fund and AARP.
Vote on passage: 225-204: R 5-194, D 220-10.

CHAMP Act:

Would cover **4.1** million uninsured children

$50 billion over 5 years

Aug 02
Senate Passes Bill to Reauthorize SCHIP

The Senate passes the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S 1893/HR 976).
CHIPRA would expand coverage to an additional 3.2 million uninsured children. It would increase by $35 billion the federal SCHIP allotment, from $25 billion over the next five years (baseline) to $61.4 billion over five years. This package is funded by a 61 cent increase in the tobacco tax (raising the federal tobacco tax to $1.00).
Vote on passage: 68-31: R 18-31, D 48-0 I 2-0

CHIPRA:

Would cover **3.2** million uninsured children

$35 billion over 5 years

Aug 17
CMS Issues Harmful New SCHIP Guidelines

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new guidelines that will make it virtually impossible for states to cover many uninsured children. The guidance is directed at states that want to cover children in families with incomes above 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and sets up several barriers to children's health coverage. One requirement is that states must enroll 95% of children in families with incomes under 200% FPL in either Medicaid or SCHIP before using SCHIP funds to cover children in families with incomes over 250% FPL. At least 20 states will be affected immediately by these new rules and others would likely be unable to move forward with planned program expansions in the future.

Aug 28
New Census Data: One in 8 Children in U.S. Is Uninsured

The U.S. Census Bureau reported that 9.4 million children in 2006 did not have health coverage, which means that one in eight children in the U.S. is uninsured. The health and well-being of children in America are not improving; rather, after six years of improvement in the rate of health coverage for children, the number of uninsured children is again on the rise. In the last year alone, there were 707,000 *more* uninsured children. *There were one million more uninsured children in America in 2006 than just two years ago.*

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September - October 2007

Sept 24
House & Senate Reach Compromise on SCHIP Legislation

After nearly two months of negotiations, the House and Senate reach a bipartisan compromise to reauthorize SCHIP for five years and provide health coverage to 3.1 million uninsured children. The compromise bill is very similar to the SCHIP legislation passed by the Senate on August 2nd but also includes additional provisions from the legislation passed by the House (the CHAMP Act). Like the original Senate bill, this legislation would cost $35 billion over five years and would be paid entirely by a 61 cent increase in the tobacco tax.

CHIPRA:

Would cover **3.1** million uninsured children

$35 billion over 5 years

Sept 25
Not Close Enough: Bipartisan Compromise Passes House Without a Veto-Proof Majority

The House passes the SCHIP compromise bill (HR 976 or CHIPRA I). 45 Republicans and all but eight Democrats vote in support of the compromise SCHIP bill. However, this is not enough votes to override a presidential veto.
Vote on passage: 265-159: R 45-151, D 220-8

Sept 27
Senate Passes Bipartisan Compromise Bill with a Veto-Proof Majority

In the Senate, 18 Republicans and all 47 Democrats vote in support of the House-passed compromise SCHIP bill (HR 976 or CHIPRA I). The Senate passes the bill with enough votes to override a presidential veto.
Vote on passage: 67-29: R 18-29, D 47-0, I 2-0

Sept 29
Congress Passes One Month Extension of SCHIP

President Bush signs a continuing resolution (CR) that temporarily funds SCHIP at FY 2007 levels, up to November 16, 2007.

Oct 03
Bush Vetoes SCHIP Reauthorization

President Bush vetoes the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (HR 976 or CHIPRA I), which passed with significant bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate, and would reauthorize SCHIP funding for 5 years and provide health coverage to more than 3 million uninsured children (one-third of the 9.4 million uninsured children in America). His veto also puts the health coverage of the more than 6.5 million children currently enrolled in SCHIP at risk.

The following fact sheet put forth by the Senate Finance Committee does an excellent job of refuting President Bush's false statements about the bill:
http://www.senate.gov/~finance/press/Bpress/2007press/prb092507c.pdf

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October – November 2007

Oct 17
New Poll: 65% of Americans Support SCHIP

65% of Americans support increased funding for SCHIP, 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. These new poll results come from a survey conducted by NPR/Harvard School of Public Health/Kaiser Family Foundation.

Oct 18
House Fails to Override Veto

The House fails to override President Bush's veto of the bipartisan reauthorization of SCHIP. The Democrats needed 13 more votes in order to override.
Vote on override attempt: 273-156: R 44-154, D 229-2

Oct 25
House Passes Second SCHIP Compromise Bill

The House again passes bipartisan legislation (HR 3963 or CHIPRA II) to reauthorize SCHIP. This revised, weaker version would still provide coverage to more than 3 million uninsured children. Again, the vote passes with a bipartisan majority; and again, without a veto-proof majority. In this case, the House falls seven votes short of the 272 votes needed to override a veto. In addition, the House loses one Republican who voted for the previous bill.
Vote on passage: 265-142: R 43-141, D 222-1

CHIPRA II:

Would cover **3.2** million uninsured children

$35 billion over 5 years

Nov 01
Senate Passes Revised Compromise Bill

The Senate again passes bipartisan legislation (HR 3963 or CHIPRA II—same as the House-passed bill) to reauthorize SCHIP. This revised, weaker version would still provide coverage to more than 3 million uninsured children. President Bush promises to veto the bill once he receives it.
Vote on passage: 64-30: R 17-30, D 45-0, I 2-0

Nov 13
Again, Congress Passes One Month SCHIP Extension

In order to provide more time for negotiations, Congress passes, and President Bush signs, a continuing resolution (CR) that funds SCHIP at FY 2007 levels through December 14, 2007. Under this temporary extension, federal SCHIP funds are allocated to states based on the FY 2007 SCHIP funding level of $5 billion.

Dec 12
Bush Vetoes SCHIP Bill for a Second Time

President Bush vetoes HR 3963 (CHIPRA II), legislation passed by Congress with strong bipartisan majorities that would have extended health coverage to more than 3 million uninsured children. This is the second time in three months that the President has vetoed legislation to provide more children with the health coverage they need.

December 19, 2007
Congress Extends SCHIP Funding through March 2009

On December 19, Congress passed, and on December 29, 2007 President Bush signed the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (S 2499) and extended federal SCHIP funding through March 2009.

The bill provides nearly $7 billion for SCHIP programs, which will allow states to maintain coverage for all currently enrolled children and avoid experiencing SCHIP shortfalls between now and March 2009.

The bill also delayed implementation of two CMS rules until June 30, 2008. However, the bill did NOT address the August 17 CMS directive that effectively caps eligibility for SCHIP at 250% of the federal poverty line (which is $42,925 a year for a family of three in