



News Release

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS PRAISES SENATE VOTE TO BLOCK CUTS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

Washington, D.C.—The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), representing 60,000 pediatricians, applauds the U.S. Senate for its veto-proof vote to block the Bush administration's damaging Medicaid cuts. The Senate also gave children a second important victory by voting to overrule an administration directive that prevents eligible children from getting health-care coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

"Today's action sends a much-needed message of support to the millions of struggling families across America who rely on Medicaid and SCHIP to help their children get well and stay healthy," said AAP president Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP. "They should not have to choose between buying groceries or taking their child to the pediatrician."

The administration's new restrictions create gaping holes in the health safety net, cutting \$15 billion to \$50 billion from such essential services for eligible children as in-school enrollment, rehabilitative care and coordinated case management. Legislation to block the restrictions is included in the domestic spending amendment to the Iraq War spending supplemental bill. The House passed similar Medicaid legislation last week, but President Bush has threatened a veto.

AAP urges President Bush to rethink his opposition to congressional efforts to prevent the children's health-care cuts. "Particularly now, during this economic downturn, we must not limit children's access to health care," Jenkins said. "We need to ease families' worries, not create new ones."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.