

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Press Statement On

House Failure to Override President Bush's SCHIP Veto Again by Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

“How do you look a child in the eye and say: ‘Sorry. You don’t deserve health care’?”

“The American Academy of Pediatrics is deeply saddened that some 4 million needy children got that message today thanks to the U.S. House of Representatives’ failure once again to override President Bush’s veto of bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. It is a real shame that just a few votes—the final 260-152 tally fell just short of the two-thirds majority required to beat back Bush’s veto—are all that stood today between these children and the care they need to get well and stay well.

“Already, some 2,000 children are added to the ranks of the uninsured every day. Given the steady drumbeat of bad economic news, the need for health-care for these low-income children is only going to grow. This is a time to shore up the safety net, not poke holes in it. It is a disgrace so many of our most vulnerable citizens do not have health care coverage despite broad bipartisan and public support to provide it. We must find a strategy to help these children.

“In the wake of today’s vote, the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 60,000 pediatricians, remains committed to working with Congress and the president to find a way to ensure low-income children get the health-care coverage they need and deserve.”

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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.