



West Virginians United for Social and Economic Justice

Our Mission is Justice And Prosperity In Our Community

Gary Zuckett - Chair

(304) 346-5891 email: garyz@wvcsnj.org fax (304) 346-8081

1500 Dixie Street, Charleston, WV. 25311

For Immediate Release 10-3-07 Children's Advocates Ask Congress - Override Bush SCHIP Veto

Contact: Gary Zuckett 304-346-5891 or Perry Bryant 304-533-7941

Charleston, WV – Under the banner of “Billions for Iraq War – Veto for Kid’s” Children’s Advocates implored Congress to override the President’s veto and do the right thing on behalf of West Virginia’s kids at a press conference today at the Governor’s Conference room in the state capitol. The bipartisan agreement vetoed by Bush would bring health coverage to nearly ten million children in the US – preserving coverage for all 6.6 million children currently covered by CHIP, and reaching nearly four million more uninsured American children in the next five years.

“Today, President Bush has put ideology and politics ahead of the health of America’s children,” said Perry Bryant, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care speaking of the SCHIP veto. *“Four million more children’s health care would be covered under the bill the president vetoed including around five thousand in West Virginia,”* stated Bryant.

“President Bush issued his fourth veto today in his total of seven years in office to kill this bi-partisan bill which has the support of 80% of Americans,” commented Renate pore, Director of WV Healthy Kids & Families Coalition *“We hope that West Virginia’s entire congressional delegation, who voted in favor of SCHIP, will continue to stand strong for children.”*

“The bill Bush vetoed today underlines the backward priorities of his administration,” noted Gary Zuckett, of WV Citizen Action, *“Our country needs to begin putting first things first.. Congress should now over-ride Bush’s veto.”*

Larry Matheney, Sec/Treas, of the WV AFL-CIO read from a statement by their national president, *“The President’s decision to veto legislation that would provide health care to millions of children is nothing short of disgraceful. With the sweep of a pen, he has slammed the door on these children’s best opportunity to grow up healthy and to reach their fullest potential. The veto also shattered the peace of mind of countless families who may now lose their coverage under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. As if to add insult to injury, the president vetoed health insurance for children in the same week as he proclaimed an official “Child Health Day,” which the Administration described in a press release as a time to “reaffirm our commitment to helping children develop good nutrition habits and active lifestyles, so that they can grow into healthy and productive adults.” Our children need a lot more than rhetoric to grow into healthy and productive adults. If President Bush really wants to show commitment to children’s health, he should give them annual check-ups, vaccinations and regular contact with a pediatrician who knows and cares about them — he shouldn’t just give them a press release.”*

also attending the event were: Sam Hickman – National Association of Social Workers & Rick Wilson – American Friends Service Committee

###

From the [AFL-CIO blog](#):

How many days of the Iraq War would pay for children's health care?

War in Iraq	Cost	Kids Covered
1 Day	\$300 Million	246,000 Kids
1 Week	\$2.1 Billion	1.7 Million Kids
1 Month	\$9 Billion	7.4 Million Kids
41 Days	\$12.2 Billion	10 Million Kids

That'd make 82 more days in Iraq as costly as the difference between the President's budget requests and the Congressional SCHIP proposal.