



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 07-012

BY SENATOR(S) Hagedorn, Boyd, Bacon, Fitz-Gerald, Groff, Isgar, Johnson, Keller, Kester, Morse, Romer, Sandoval, Schwartz, Shaffer, Spence, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, Williams, Windels, and Gordon;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McGihon, Frangas, Stafford, Butcher, Gagliardi, Kefalas, Kerr A., May M., Primavera, Riesberg, Todd, Benefield, Borodkin, Buescher, Carroll M., Carroll T., Curry, Fischer, Gallegos, Gibbs, Green, Hodge, Jahn, Labuda, Levy, Merrifield, Peniston, Pommer, Rice, Romanoff, Solano, Soper, and Stephens.

CONCERNING SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL REAUTHORIZATION OF THE STATE CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.

WHEREAS, There are nearly 180,000 children who remain uninsured in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly and the voters of Colorado believe that all children deserve access to and receive quality, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, Investing in the health of our youth is wise and responsible. Providing adequate health insurance coverage increases access to care for children and decreases unmet medical needs. Adequate access, in turn, improves utilization patterns and helps to keep overall health costs down; and

WHEREAS, Better health care results in healthier children. Healthy children are absent less from school and perform better while in school; and

WHEREAS, Improved mental and physical well-being increases a child's ability to reach his or her full potential. Quality, preventative, ongoing care leads to the early diagnosis and treatment of conditions, thereby decreasing the need for more costly care later in life; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid has been the main form of coverage for the poorest and most vulnerable of our citizens. State child health insurance plans ("SCHIP"), in conjunction with Medicaid, has been a successful step toward providing coverage for children; and

WHEREAS, Enacted in 1997, SCHIP has enrolled more than 4 million children nationwide who were previously uninsured under Medicaid. Currently, 50,000 Colorado children benefit from this coverage in the form of the Children's Basic Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, Due to rising health care costs and the decline in employer-sponsored insurance, an increasing number of Americans and Coloradans alike are unable to afford coverage for themselves and their children; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly, urge Congress to reauthorize SCHIP to enable Colorado to continue to provide quality, affordable health insurance coverage to nearly 50,000 children and to increase that number over time, extending coverage to the remaining uninsured children; and

(2) That Congress should appropriate funding to continue to provide services for current enrollees in every state; and

(3) That Congress should increase funding above current limits to build upon the success of the program and expand coverage to more children in Colorado; and

(4) That funding for SCHIP programs should not come at the expense of other important child and family services programs; and

(5) That Congress should provide additional flexibility in the program so that states can expand and enhance coverage based upon the needs of the state without federal waivers; and

(6) That Congress should encourage the adoption of standard of care guidelines, support demonstrations that promote best practices, and provide performance incentives for increases in the proportion of children receiving comprehensive primary health services, including a medical home; and

(7) That Congress should include accountability measures related to further reducing the number of uninsured children, improving quality of care, and positively impacting healthy child development.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution should be sent to Colorado's Congressional delegation and George W. Bush, President of the United States.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES