



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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September 25, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), I urge you to strongly support the bipartisan compromise legislation to extend the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

This week, the Congress will have the opportunity to pass legislation to help an additional 4 million low-income children receive healthcare by providing \$35 billion to extend the SCHIP program. This compromise bipartisan bill, which is fully paid for, represents a solid first step toward ensuring that all uninsured children receive healthcare.

With proper healthcare, children are less likely to miss school due to illness, and are more likely to succeed in school and, ultimately, in the working world. While President Bush has threatened to veto this important legislation, the AFT will work with Congress to ensure that low-income students receive the insurance coverage they require.

We urge you to support the conference report on the SCHIP legislation and, if necessary, to vote to override the president's promised veto of this vital legislation.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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