



Sample SCHIP Talking Points

May 2007

1. As a member of the American Public Health Association/**X STATE** Public Health Association, a public health professional and constituent, I urge Representative/Senator _____ to support the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and the allocation of at least \$50 billion in new federal funds over the next 5 years for this purpose.
2. Congress has the opportunity to use SCHIP reauthorization to make a difference in the lives of the **X NUMBER** of children who are uninsured in **STATE Y** and 75 percent of our nation's uninsured children who are eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid but are not enrolled in these programs. States need to be given the funding and financial incentives necessary to cover as many of these children as possible in these programs.
3. Children enrolled in SCHIP —regardless of their state of residence—should be guaranteed a comprehensive, prevention-focused benefits package. Therefore, I support strengthening the federal benefits standard for SCHIP stand-alone programs, as children enrolled in SCHIP programs that are Medicaid expansions are already guaranteed coverage of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services. In SCHIP stand-alone programs that do not cover EPSDT services, children—especially those with chronic conditions, mental health problems and disabilities—oftentimes are left with incomplete and insufficient coverage, especially in the arenas of mental health, dental, vision, speech and physical therapy, and other treatments deemed medically necessary.
4. The goal of SCHIP reauthorization should be to cover more children and other vulnerable populations in the program, not to cause more people to become uninsured. I support giving states the option to cover pregnant women in their SCHIP programs without the need for a waiver or reliance on the coverage of the unborn child. States should also be able to cover legal immigrant children and pregnant women who are current barred from received SCHIP and Medicaid coverage, as they have not yet been in the country for five years. Adults, including parents and childless adults, should not be kicked out of the SCHIP and join the ranks of the nation's uninsured as a result of SCHIP reauthorization.
5. Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to receiving a response on the value that Representative/Senator _____ places on the public's health and the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.