

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

## **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Erin Howard (202-724-3303; [ehoward@aap.org](mailto:ehoward@aap.org))

### **Press Statement**

**on**

### **PASSAGE OF CHIP BILL IN THE SENATE**

**by David T. Tayloe Jr., MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics**

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) praises the U.S. Senate in its action to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in a 66-32 vote. The AAP thanks Senate Leader Harry Reid for his leadership and applauds the bipartisanship shown by Senate leaders on both sides of the aisle.

“Renewing CHIP has been one of the AAP’s top legislative priorities. This version of the legislation will fund insurance coverage for more than 11 million children nationwide. During uncertain economic times, the Senate has come together to wisely prioritize children’s health. The AAP urges Congress to act swiftly to send this important legislation to President Obama’s desk as soon as possible.

“Reauthorizing CHIP means that more than \$30 billion in federal funding will be available to provide health care for those currently enrolled in the program, and to enroll millions more children, the vast majority of whom are currently eligible for CHIP or Medicaid but unenrolled. AAP is pleased to see that the Senate bill also included the Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act (ICHIA), which will lift an antiquated five-year ban on eligibility for legally residing children and pregnant women. This legislation also strengthens and improves health care coverage for children in a variety of other areas, including:

- Creation of a Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to analyze payment rates and policies under Medicaid and CHIP and report twice yearly to Congress
- Funding to reach four million additional children
- Funding of nearly \$250 million for pediatric quality measurement

“CHIP is a down-payment on comprehensive health reform. The government’s efforts to ensure that all children have access to affordable, high-quality health coverage are strengthened by the passage of the CHIP reauthorization.”

###

*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. ([www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org))*