

MEDIA ADVISORY:
May 17, 2007

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FRIDAY: BUSINESS, HEALTH, FAITH LEADERS AND FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO LOST CHIP COVERAGE URGE TEXAS SENATE TO PASS HOUSE BILL 109

Bill to be heard in Senate Finance Committee this Friday

On Friday, May 18, the Texas CHIP Coalition and the Insure Texas Kids Campaign will join with business, faith, health, and community leaders, and parents of children who lost CHIP coverage to urge the Texas Senate to pass House Bill 109 and restore the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). House Bill 109 by Representative Sylvester Turner passed the Texas House by a landslide vote of 128-17 on April 3 and would restore over 100,000 children to the Texas CHIP Program. A Senate hearing in the Finance Committee has been announced for Friday, May 18. Advocates are calling on the Texas Senate to pass House Bill 109 and fix administrative problems with the CHIP program immediately before time runs out during this legislative session.

Texas groups calling for CHIP restoration include the chambers of commerce in Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, seventeen faith-based organizations, the PTA, the League of Women Voters, and every major health care association. Restoring CHIP enrollment—which has dropped by over 200,000 children (40%) since 2003 cuts took effect—is a key step in helping reduce the number of uninsured Texas children. CHIP restoration is also key to claiming Texas taxpayers' fair share of federal health care dollars. Texas has lost \$913 million in federal CHIP funds that have been spent by other states because of the dramatic drop in coverage of Texas children.

WHAT: Press conference to urge the Texas Senate to restore CHIP

WHO: **Lan Bentsen**, co-founder, Houston based international oil and gas company
Dr. Ari Brown, pediatrician, Texas Medical Society, Texas Pediatric Society, Texas Association of Family Physicians
Sister Helen Brewer, DC, Chair, Board of Trustees, Seton Families of Hospitals
Dr. Kim Cape, Superintendent of the Austin District of the United Methodist Church
Parents of children who lost CHIP coverage
Barbara Best, Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund of Texas
Anne Dunkelberg, Associate Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities

WHERE: South Steps, Texas Capitol, Austin, Texas

WHEN: Friday, May 18, 2007, 10:30am

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