

## House Passes SCHIP Bill, Clears it for President's Signature

Wednesday, February 04 2009

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Today, Congressman Mike Michaud issued the following statement regarding House passage of Senate Amendments to H.R. 2, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization. The bill will provide health care coverage for 11 million children &ndash; preserving coverage for the 7 million children currently covered by SCHIP and extending coverage to 4 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid. Passage today clears the bill for President's signature.

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&ldquo;Clearing this bill for the President's signature is a positive step forward. Today, more and more parents are having difficulty finding affordable health care for their children. Given the state of the economy coupled with rising unemployment, it is more important than ever that we provide health insurance for children. No child in Maine or anywhere throughout our nation should ever go without needed medical care.&rdquo;

SCHIP was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance, and has proved a successful and cost-effective program for providing health care.

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