

# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

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Governor

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### **Governor Richardson Leads Bipartisan Effort to Reauthorize State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Funding**

#### *SCHIP is Instrumental in Insuring New Mexico's Children*

Santa Fe, NM – Governor Bill Richardson is leading a bipartisan effort with 17 other Governors to urge the chair and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Finance and Energy and Commerce Committees to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds to continue health insurance coverage for 14,000 New Mexico children and adults.

“New Mexico is fighting to provide all our citizens with the health care coverage they deserve,” said Governor Richardson. “But we need support from our federal partners to make this a reality. In New Mexico SCHIP has been instrumental in giving all kids five and younger an opportunity for health care coverage and plays an important role in covering uninsured adults as well.”

The letter, sent to Senators Baucus and Grassley, and Representatives Dingell and Barton, who will be key Congressional leaders in the reauthorization of SCHIP, was signed by the Governors of New Mexico, Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont, Arizona, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Kansas, Massachusetts, Wyoming, Illinois, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Maryland.

During the recent National Governors Association meeting, SCHIP was a top priority of the Governors who discussed it both in their private meetings and with President Bush and members of his cabinet.

SCHIP funding covers children in households with incomes up to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level (or \$31,000 annual income for a family of two). New Mexico also received a federal waiver that allows SCHIP funding to cover adults through the State Coverage Insurance (SCI) program, which provides funding for parents and adults with incomes up to 200% of the FPL (or \$26,000 for a family of two). Between the two programs nearly 14,000 New Mexico children and adults have health care coverage through the SCHIP. The letter encourages no change in current federal law and funding. The letter is attached.

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