

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE FINALLY PASSES

In the fall of 2006, the Women's Division Board of Directors voted to support the State Child Health Insurance Program (called SCHIP) being taken to Congress. They invited United Methodist Women to sign petitions and send them to Washington so Congress would know how concerned they were about the millions of uninsured children in our nation. The legislation passed Congress but was vetoed by the President. Since an early 2007 Action Alert, United Methodist Women have kept pressure on their representatives to care for the health of America's children.

On February 4th, President Barack Obama signed the SCHIP Reauthorization of 2009. It provides for an additional 4 million children to have insurance and eliminates some of the barriers children have to getting benefits. It is a good step forward and we rejoice at this news. But there is still work to be done. An additional 5 million or more children will still be without any coverage with some 46 million Americans overall. For an organization founded on concerns for health and education, healthcare is a primary emphasis for United Methodist Women. Let's celebrate this victory - 4 million more - and set about to see that everyone has access to healthcare.

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