

RESOLUTION

Supporting health care for all children and urging the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and expand funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

WHEREAS, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), enacted in 1997, is a critical source of health insurance coverage for over 6 million children in the United States.

WHEREAS, SCHIP expanded healthcare coverage to fill the void for millions of children under age 19 whose family income levels are too high to qualify for Medicaid or too low to afford private healthcare coverage.

WHEREAS, in Cuyahoga County, over 130,000 children were covered by SCHIP and Medicaid as of November, 2008.

WHEREAS, SCHIP is a block grant program, jointly funded with federal and state dollars, however, states receive enhanced matching funds for SCHIP enrollees.

WHEREAS, Congress will consider SCHIP reauthorization this year, which could result in opportunities to make positive changes for children.

WHEREAS, SCHIP financing levels set back in 1997, do not keep pace with rising health care costs and the need for coverage. This Commission urges Congress to commit additional federal funds over the next five years for Medicaid and SCHIP to provide states with adequate, predictable funding.

WHEREAS, the financial stability of SCHIP is critical to states. If states continue to face impending funding shortfalls, they may be forced to impose enrollment freezes, increase cost-sharing, and place greater restrictions on eligibility requirements.

WHEREAS, it is clear that SCHIP must be supported and funded as a separate insurance for children, in order to fill the gap for children who are not eligible for Medicaid and whose families cannot afford private coverage.

WHEREAS, SCHIP must be funded, but not as a result of cuts to the Medicaid program. Medicaid is the backbone of the country's commitment to providing health care for low-income children.

AND WHEREAS, this Commission urges Congress to debate and determine how to make Medicaid and SCHIP work together to be stronger programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, that we support health care for all children and urge Congress to reauthorize and expand the funding for the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Senators Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich, the members of the House of Representatives representing Northeast Ohio, and the U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services, Michael Leavitt.

**On Motion of Commissioner Dimora, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the
foregoing resolution was duly adopted.**

Ayes: Dimora, Jones, Hagan.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

**Journal 301
January 22, 2009
090403
fg**