

HB 1523

2004

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida KidCare program; providing
3 an appropriation; providing an effective date.
4

5 WHEREAS, the Florida KidCare program was created by the
6 Legislature in 1998 as a public-private partnership that offers
7 working families the opportunity to purchase low-cost health
8 care for their children, and

9 WHEREAS, the Florida KidCare program is a proven effective
10 program serving over 1.5 million children under age 19, and

11 WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our children are of
12 highest priority, and ensuring that children are provided
13 adequate health care is a fundamental family value, and

14 WHEREAS, providing children health insurance is a prudent
15 financial investment, relieving a burden on the state's over-
16 crowded emergency rooms, providing to the state's schools a
17 healthy child who is better able to learn, and enabling parents
18 to be more productive in their jobs, and

19 WHEREAS, the Federal Government pays over 70 percent of the
20 cost of the Florida KidCare program for Title-XXI-eligible
21 children, and

22 WHEREAS, Medicaid and Title XXI spending has a significant
23 impact on the state's economy, generating a rate of return for
24 fiscal year 2001 of \$2.82 per dollar invested in Medicaid,
25 creating new business activity, jobs, and wages, and

26 WHEREAS, Congress provided this state with \$413 million in
27 additional Medicaid dollars in 2003, with the intent that it be
28 used for health care and an additional \$132 million in State
29 Children's Health Insurance Program federal funds in February of

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30 2004, and

31 WHEREAS, the 2003 Legislature froze the enrollment for the
 32 Florida KidCare program, creating a waiting list of over 100,000
 33 Title-XXI-eligible and non-Title-XXI-eligible children, NOW,
 34 THEREFORE,

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 36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 38 Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from the General
 39 Revenue Fund, the Agency for Health Care Administration Tobacco
 40 Settlement Trust Fund, the Department of Health Tobacco
 41 Settlement Trust Fund, and the Health Care Trust Fund to the
 42 Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of
 43 Health an amount sufficient to fully fund the Florida KidCare
 44 program for the remainder of this year and for fiscal year 2004-
 45 2005, providing coverage for all Title-XXI-eligible and non-
 46 Title-XXI-eligible children, including immediate coverage for
 47 the 2003-2004 waiting list as of the effective date of this act,
 48 eligible children for the remainder of the 2003-2004 fiscal
 49 year, future growth in the program, and future price level
 50 increases.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.