

By the Committee on Health Policy; and Senators Peaden and Dockery

587-2071-07

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to timely reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program to assure federal funding for the Florida KidCare Program.

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Florida recognizes the health of the state's children to be of paramount importance to families in this state, and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Florida regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and the social and psychological well-being of the children of this state, and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Florida considers protecting the health of its children to be essential to the well-being of the youngest citizens and the quality of life in this state, and

WHEREAS, the Senate considers the Florida KidCare Program, which was created in 1998 and currently has 1,388,520 children enrolled, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Senate recognizes the value of the Florida KidCare Program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs, and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Florida considers the federal funding available for the Florida KidCare Program to be indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest means, NOW, THEREFORE,

1 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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3 That the Florida Senate urges the United States
4 Congress to timely reauthorize the State Children's Health
5 Insurance Program (SCHIP) to ensure federal funding for the
6 Florida KidCare Program.

7 That the Florida Senate urges the Governor to use his
8 best efforts to work with the Florida delegation to the United
9 States Congress to ensure that SCHIP is reauthorized in a
10 timely manner.

11 That the Florida Senate recognize's that all components
12 of state government should work together with educators,
13 health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure
14 that all available public and private assistance for providing
15 health benefits to uninsured children in this state is used to
16 the maximum extent possible.

17 That the Florida Senate urges the Governor to use his
18 best efforts to provide meaningful assistance to help identify
19 and enroll children who qualify for the Florida KidCare
20 Program.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
23 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
24 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
25 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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27 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
28 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
29 Senate Bill 1506

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30 The committee substitute corrects the name of the State
31 Children's Health Insurance Program and includes the most
recent Florida Kidcare enrollment numbers as of March 2007.