

HM 23C

2007

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States urging  
3 Congress to override President Bush's veto of the State  
4 Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure federal  
5 funding for the Florida Kidcare program.  
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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards  
8 the health of children to be of paramount importance to families  
9 in the state, and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards  
11 poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and  
12 social and psychological well-being of the children of the State  
13 of Florida, and

14 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers  
15 protecting the health of children to be essential to the well-  
16 being of Florida's youngest citizens and the quality of life in  
17 the state, and

18 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers  
19 the Florida Kidcare program, which was created in 1998 and  
20 currently has 1,374,569 children enrolled in the program, to be  
21 an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the  
22 children of the State of Florida, and

23 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida recognizes  
24 the value of the Florida Kidcare program in preserving child  
25 wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving  
26 health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs, and

27 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers  
28 the federal funding available for the Florida Kidcare program to

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29 | be indispensable to providing health benefits for children of  
 30 | modest means, and

31 |         WHEREAS, estimates indicate that the State of Florida has  
 32 | over 700,000 uninsured children, the second-highest percentage  
 33 | of uninsured children in the nation, and

34 |         WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida sent a  
 35 | memorial to the Congress of the United States during the 2007  
 36 | Legislative Session urging Congress to reauthorize the State  
 37 | Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and

38 |         WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States recently passed  
 39 | bipartisan legislation reauthorizing SCHIP, NOW, THEREFORE,

40 |

41 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

42 |

43 |         That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United  
 44 | States to ensure that the congressional reauthorization of the  
 45 | State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which will  
 46 | continue to provide federal funding for the Florida Kidcare  
 47 | program and allow the State of Florida to cover additional  
 48 | uninsured children, is enacted into law by overriding President  
 49 | Bush's veto of the bipartisan SCHIP legislation recently passed  
 50 | by the Congress of the United States.

51 |         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the  
 52 | Governor to work with the Florida delegation to the United  
 53 | States Congress to ensure that the State Children's Health  
 54 | Insurance Program is reauthorized by overriding President Bush's  
 55 | veto of the bipartisan SCHIP legislation.

56 |         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
 57 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the

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58 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
59 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
60 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.