



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

August 29, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Earlier this year I wrote you on the importance of reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) prior to its expiration date of September 30, 2007. Today I am writing to reassert the importance of SCHIP and to urge you to reconsider the new barriers your administration has issued to the states that would hurt our most valuable and vulnerable citizens: our children.

Implementation of interpretive guidelines issued this month by the Center for Medicaid and State Operations will fundamentally undermine the flexibility to craft and operate health care programs that best serve children under the SCHIP program. At a time when Oregon and other states are seeking to bring low-income working families into health care coverage plans, the guidelines set standards unworkable and unrealistic, resulting in 31,000 Oregon children being blocked from the health care coverage they need.

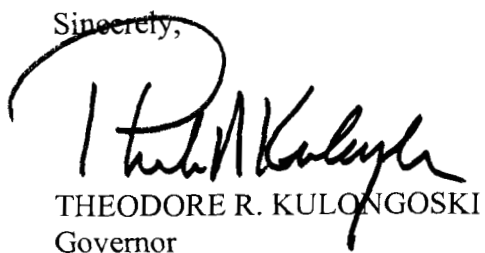
The harsh reality for many families is that they earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid but do not have family coverage through their employer nor can they afford skyrocketing premiums. In Oregon, we have a plan that would allow these families to purchase private insurance through a shared responsibility model. When both families and states are willing to do their fair share to protect our children and ensure they get the health care they need, it is indefensible that the federal government would attempt to back out of the deal.

America is the richest nation in the world, and in Oregon we believe that means we have a responsibility to make sure no child is left without the health care they need. To that end, I urge you to work constructively for the reauthorization of the SCHIP program instead of making good on your threat to veto it. I also urge you to advise your

The Honorable George W. Bush
August 29, 2007
Page Two

administration to rescind the unworkable guidelines that will hurt children in Oregon and every state in the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Kulongoski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:sb:jyk
c: Sarah Bittleman, Oregon Director of Federal Affairs
Oregon Congressional Delegation