

# *HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROCKEFELLER-SNOWE-KENNEDY CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT (S.1224)*

## **TITLE I – MAKING CHILDREN’S HEALTH COVERAGE A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

The legislation maintains our commitment to the 6 million children already enrolled in CHIP, while making it possible for states to reach out to those children that are eligible Medicaid and CHIP, but un-enrolled. Our legislation would help states cover about 3 million additional children in the next five years (6 million additional children over ten years). The legislation also maintains CHIP as a capped funding program, but more than doubles the federal resources allocated over the next five years.

## **TITLE II – IMPROVING CHIP FINANCING**

As in the original CHIP law, the national allotment will be distributed each year among states based on a statutory formula. The formula ensures all states have the federal matching funds needed to sustain their existing CHIP programs given health care inflation and population growth, as well as to cover additional children. To ensure a timely redistribution of unspent CHIP funds, states would have two years to use their annual allotment - if a state has unspent funds after that time, the money is re-invested in CHIP and given to other states to meet pressing needs. States would be allowed to expand coverage of children to 300% of the poverty line; and, funding for the territories, like Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands, would also be improved.

## **TITLE III – ENROLLING UNINSURED CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR CHIP AND MEDICAID**

States would be allowed to use the financial information gathered from WIC, school lunch, and other means-tested programs to decide whether children are income-eligible for CHIP and Medicaid. Some children, such as legal immigrant and minority children, are grossly under-enrolled in CHIP and Medicaid. To reach them, our bill provides a 75 percent administrative match rate for costs associated with providing eligibility and enrollment services in different languages. The bill also makes it a state option to require certain individuals to present satisfactory documentary evidence of proof of citizenship or nationality for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid.

## **TITLE IV – START HEALTHY, STAY HEALTHY**

Under this section of the bill, states would have the option to expand or add coverage of certain pregnant women under Medicaid and CHIP. In addition, states would also be able to provide CHIP and Medicaid coverage to legal immigrant children and pregnant women. The bill also guarantees dental coverage and access to mental health services for low-income children enrolled in CHIP.

## **TITLE V – IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN**

The bill establishes the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) to make recommendations to Congress on ways to improve access to care for children in Medicaid and CHIP.

## **TITLE VI – STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF CARE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN**

The CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2007 takes important steps to develop child-focused quality measures that will directly improve the coverage provided to children enrolled in CHIP. It establishes a new child health quality initiative to enhance data collection, identify best practices, develop a pediatric electronic medical record, and disseminate health quality information.

## **TITLE VII – OTHER IMPROVEMENTS**

The Rockefeller-Snowe legislation takes steps to make it easier for states to use CHIP funds to help families purchase cost-effective and comprehensive employer-based coverage. In addition, the legislation allows more state discretion to cover children of state employees, under limited circumstances.