

LETTERS: THE SUNDAY TIMES

U.S. needs to prioritize kids' health

I am distressed that President Bush is funding the war at the expense of national health care.

We have many uninsured children whose health is a concern for all of us. If one gets sick in our schools, all are exposed. We need to provide preventive care. No child should have to rely solely on the emergency room for health care.

Our members of Congress need to make children a priority in the federal budget. Covering all children is possible if Congress provides adequate funding of \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year. Our state and our county are moving to cover all kids, but we cannot do so without federal support.

We at CCISCO (Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization) have been working on this for 10 years. We have 25 churches in 11 cities across the county committed to working with our local officials to provide health care for children. The faith community is working hard to ensure the renewal of SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program). We will be sending 10 people to Washington March 6-8 to speak to our representatives. We urge others to contact members of Congress. For more information, call CCISCO at 925-313-0206.

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