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A Call to Prayer Over SCHIP: Believers Say It Could Make the Difference

By Alex Wayne, CQ Staff

God will be asked this Sunday to weigh in on the state children's health insurance program, as members of various faith groups are encouraged to pray for an override of President Bush's veto of the measure.

The call to prayer by the PICO National Network of religious organizations is aimed at generating at least 10,000 calls to 35 targeted members of Congress who voted against the bill (HR 976) but might still be convinced to support an override attempt Oct. 18.

"We're praying that our elected officials find the courage to put aside politics and do right by our children," reads a flier that will be distributed Oct. 14 to parishioners in congregations participating in the event.

Rev. Heyward Wiggins, a PICO member and pastor of Camden Bible Tabernacle Church of North Camden, N.J., said the SCHIP bill is a moral issue for pastors.

"It's not necessarily getting churches involved in politics; it just happens to be a political issue that's struck a chord in the moral fabric of the faith community," he said. "We're challenged to rise and address it, and to speak to it."

Source: **CQ Today**

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