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OPINION Reader Views

### Kids can't wait

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On Sept. 10, congressional leaders announced they had reached a compromise to renew the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). They promised to send a bill to the president before SCHIP expires on Sept. 30.

House and Senate leaders agreed to a plan that would provide health coverage to not even half of the many millions of uninsured children in the United States. This plan falls well short of what most voters say they want, which is for Congress to expand the program and Medicaid to reach all uninsured children. There are thousands in our state and very own county who are without any insurance, and so many parents in pain because they can't afford health-care coverage.

This is a travesty. The motto of the group I co-chair, The Federation of Congregations United to Serve, is "Kids Can't Wait."

The problem now is that President Bush has threatened to veto any legislation that covers more uninsured children. As a person of faith, the president should understand that our society has a moral obligation to take care of our children. Not to do so is unacceptable and financially shortsighted.

Let us pray that compassion and good judgment rule the day in Washington, D.C.

Phoebe Hughes

Orlando

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