



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Shuler Again Votes to Extend Health Care to Children

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler voted today for a bipartisan, compromise legislation to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The compromise bill was put together by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA), along with Democrats and some House Republicans.

“It is unacceptable and immoral that the greatest nation on the Earth has over 9 million children living without the health care they need. Ensuring that every American child is able to receive that care is an issue we will continue to fight for in this Congress,” said Rep. Shuler.

The legislation voted on today, H.R. 3963, addressed many of the concerns that Republicans had expressed during the debate of the previous SCHIP legislation, which President Bush had vetoed. The bill was written to clarify their concerns. H.R. 3963 provides incentives only to states enrolling uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid are enrolled in that program. Enrollment in SCHIP remained limited to children of families with an income below 300%.

The SCHIP legislation voted on today also further strengthened provisions that prevent illegal immigrants from receiving benefits.

Finally, today's legislation phased out childless adults in the program over one year – faster than the original SCHIP legislations requirement of two years.

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