



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 4, 2007

CONTACT: Lisa Gardiner (916) 444-0500

## CONGRESS CAN HELP CALIFORNIA PROVIDE HEALTH COVERAGE TO MORE CHILDREN

### 800,000 California Children Rely on Healthy Families Program

SACRAMENTO – This month, Congress will consider reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides funding for California's Healthy Families Program. Healthy Families offers low-cost health coverage for children.

Health reform proposals by Governor Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders rely on SCHIP funding to increase the number of children covered by Healthy Families. A new California Budget Project (CBP) report, "SCHIP Reauthorization: Congress Can Help California Provide Health Coverage to More Children" shows that if Congress does not substantially boost funding, California will not have sufficient funds to cover the 800,000 children who currently rely on Healthy Families, much less reach more uninsured children.

"It's critical that Congress do its part for California, and help the state with the funding it needs to build on this very successful program," said Jean Ross, executive director of the CBP, a nonpartisan public policy research group.

California needs an additional \$2 billion to \$3 billion over the next five years in order to support current Healthy Families Program enrollment. More than \$4 billion in new federal dollars would be needed if the program is expanded to cover more children, as proposed by the Governor and legislative leaders.

Healthy Families, which is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, provides health coverage to children in families who cannot afford health insurance, but whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medi-Cal. Healthy Families has helped reduce the number of low-income, uninsured children, during a period when the number of Californians with job-based health coverage declined. Studies show that children with health coverage are more likely to receive immunizations and other preventive services, and to be in better health, which can lead to better success in school and later in life.

This report is available at [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org).

1107 9th Street, Suite 310  
Sacramento, California 95814  
P: (916) 444-0500  
F: (916) 444-0172  
[cbp@cbp.org](mailto:cbp@cbp.org)  
[www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)