

<i>Sarah Palin</i> <i>Alaska</i>	<i>Sonny Perdue</i> <i>Georgia</i>	<i>Rod Blagojevich</i> <i>Illinois</i>	<i>Chet Culver</i> <i>Iowa</i>	<i>John Baldacci</i> <i>Maine</i>
<i>Martin O'Malley</i> <i>Maryland</i>	<i>Deval Patrick</i> <i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>Tim Pawlenty</i> <i>Minnesota</i>	<i>Haley Barbour</i> <i>Mississippi</i>	<i>Dave Heineman</i> <i>Nebraska</i>
	<i>Donald Carcieri</i> <i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Mike Rounds</i> <i>South Dakota</i>	<i>Jim Doyle</i> <i>Wisconsin</i>	

February 23, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361 A-Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner,

We are writing today to request your assistance in addressing the looming Fiscal Year 2007 federal funding shortfall for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Unless Congress acts expeditiously, health insurance for some of our States' most vulnerable citizens is in jeopardy.

As you know, Congress created SCHIP in 1997 as a bipartisan approach to address the growing number of children without health insurance in America. The stated goal of the program was to provide insurance to five million low-income children within ten years. With more than 6.1 million children receiving benefits, SCHIP has met that goal and is widely considered a national success.

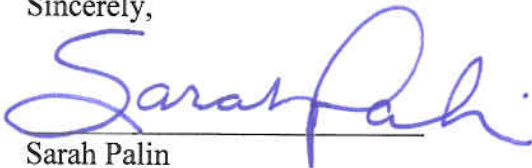
Despite this success, SCHIP is governed by a flawed and counterproductive distribution formula that penalizes the states successfully implementing the mission of the program. According to the Congressional Research Service, forty states now have expenditures greater than their federal SCHIP allotment per year and at least fourteen states are facing federal matching shortfalls for FY 2007. Without quick Congressional action, our states, all facing federal shortfalls, will be forced to make harsh decisions affecting the lives of thousands of families.

With states facing federal matching shortfalls as early as March, SCHIP funding has reached critical status in many of our states. We request that you consider covering current year shortfalls at the earliest possible opportunity, whether as stand alone

legislation or in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Our states stand ready to be partners in this program and meet the state portions of the funding, but the clock is ticking. We need Congressional assistance quickly to strengthen and preserve this successful program.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,



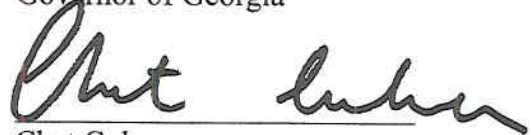
Sarah Palin
Governor of Alaska



Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia



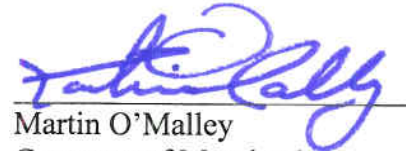
Rod Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois



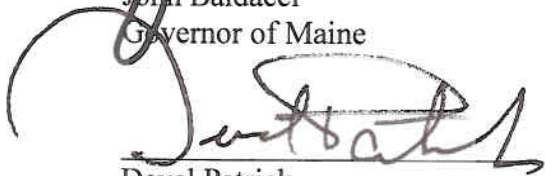
Chet Culver
Governor of Iowa



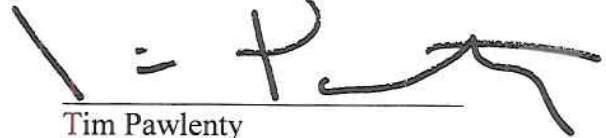
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Governor of Maine



Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland



Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts



Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota



Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi



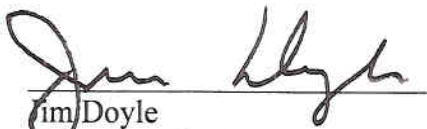
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