

8/1/2007 - Sires Votes For Children's Health And Medicare Protection

The CHAMP Act reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program

For Immediate Release

Contact: Olga Alvarez

August 1, 2007

(201) 222-2828

(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Albio Sires voted for the CHAMP Act, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007. This bill reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at \$50 billion. The reauthorization benefits 11 million children nationwide, which includes the 6 million who are currently enrolled and 5 million more who are eligible but not currently enrolled. SCHIP or FamilyCare in New Jersey, will expire on September 30th.

"This health insurance coverage is the protection hundreds of New Jersey parents count on when they do not qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance," said Congressman Sires. "They're caught in the middle and we must protect their children's access to healthcare."

In New Jersey, the CHAMP Act secures funding for 120,900 children already enrolled in SCHIP; provides funding for the State to reach the 136,000 that remain uninsured, and a new option to cover an additional 126,400 children who are aging out of Medicaid and SCHIP.

H.R. 3162 also protects Medicare beneficiaries by:

- shielding Medicare from privatization;

- guaranteeing that seniors and people with disabilities can continue to see their doctors by preventing scheduled physician payment cuts; and

- expanding programs that assist low-income seniors and people with disabilities with co-payments, deductibles, and prescription drug costs.

"By supporting this bill we give patients access to the preventive care that keeps them healthy while saving high emergency room costs. It's a win-win situation that can only improve the quality of life of New Jersey's working families," said Congressman Sires.

The CHAMP Act has received the support of 114 organizations across the nation.

(####)