



For Immediate Release

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Senator Gregg Calls for Responsible Compromise on SCHIP Reauthorization

U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today called for a responsible compromise after House Republicans sustained the President's veto of legislation to dramatically expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to higher-income families and adults at a taxpayer cost of \$110 billion over ten years. In addition, the current bill would advance a nationalized health care system.

"I strongly support the reauthorization of SCHIP for the low-income children it is intended to help, and am hopeful that Congress and the President can now begin work on a realistic and responsible compromise," said Senator Gregg, the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

"I have joined Republican Leader Mitch McConnell in introducing legislation to reauthorize SCHIP, while focusing on low-income children who are eligible but not yet enrolled in the SCHIP program," said Senator Gregg. "The *Kids First Act* would provide more than \$14 billion in new SCHIP funding over the next five years, a 60 percent increase. This fiscally responsible alternative allows Congress to aid those children in need without wasting millions of taxpayer dollars.

"The Democrats' refusal to negotiate may come at the expense of the low-income children this bill is meant to serve," said Senator Gregg. "I'm hopeful they will stop playing politics with this issue and enter into serious negotiations that can pass Congress and be signed by the President."