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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO  
Fifty-ninth Legislature Second Regular Session - 2008  
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IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN IMPACTS THEIR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND COMMITTING TO STRIVE TOWARD THE GOAL THAT IDAHO'S CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY AND PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE SERVICES.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, we recognize children as our state's greatest resource and their health and well-being as Idaho's highest policy priority; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging, based both on research and experience, routine health and dental preventative care services for children are cost-effective and have long-term health and societal benefits; and

WHEREAS, healthy children are a key component in the overall health of the family in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, parents are responsible to provide for their child's health and dental care needs but frequently have trouble accessing affordable health coverage and health services for their children; and

WHEREAS, uninsured children are less likely to get health and dental preventative care and are more likely to inappropriately use hospital emergency rooms as their regular source of medical care passing on the very high costs of these services to other consumers, the state of Idaho, and the overall community; and

WHEREAS, in Idaho, there are approximately 43,500 uninsured children with an uninsured rate of approximately 11.6% among children ages birth through 18 years old according to Idaho Kids Count 2007 Data Report; and

WHEREAS, our state policymakers have both the resolve and means to reach and decrease the number of uninsured children under 19 years old who are income-eligible for free or low-cost health care coverage through Medicaid and SCHIP when the family income is below 185% of the federal poverty level (approximately 19,000 children); and

WHEREAS, the cost of SCHIP to the state of Idaho is greatly reduced by a very favorable federal match rate making this coverage a great value; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental and physical illnesses contribute to additional health care costs and impede a child's ability to learn effectively in school and at home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho

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Legislature recognizes the importance of children's health and commits to strive toward ensuring that Idaho's children have access to high-quality, affordable comprehensive primary and preventative health and dental care services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support necessary public and private outreach efforts to help income-eligible Idaho children get the health care coverage they need and deserve while seeking to find a way to provide health care coverage for all Idaho children.

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