

Letter: SCHIP support

The Topeka Capital-Journal
Published Friday, January 30, 2009

Many politicians talk about finding solutions to our most challenging problems, like providing health care for children and ensuring their future well-being. But last week, Reps. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Dennis Moore, D-Kan., actually did something about it by voting in favor of the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), known more widely in Kansas as HealthWave.

HealthWave provides children who would otherwise be uninsured with access to basic health care, and it offers critical support to Kansas families who work hard, play by the rules and pay their taxes.

In Kansas, more than 35,000 children can afford coverage through HealthWave because of the federal SCHIP program. As the economic situation worsens for Kansas families, it is expected that this number will continue to grow. The votes of Moran and Moore — and a similar debate expected as early as next week in the U.S. Senate — set the stage for continued progress as state leaders begin working to deliver on their commitment to strengthen HealthWave.

The challenge of providing health care for our most vulnerable citizens is real. However, it is a problem we can solve. Providing health care coverage for children not only ensures a healthier next generation but ensures reduced long-term medical costs for all of us.

GARY BRUNK, President and CEO, Kansas Action for Children