

# **SAMPLE SCHIP LETTER**

**[Date]**

Dear **[Senator/Representative]**:

I am writing on behalf of **[your organization]** to ask that you support the reauthorization of the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at a funding level that allows for coverage of children who are still without health insurance and that continues the flexibility states currently have to cover children in families with incomes over 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The SCHIP program has been an enormous success. In Kansas today, 35,000 children have insurance because of SCHIP. Given the increases in the cost of insurance in the past decade and the growth in the number of uninsured adults, it is almost certain these children would not have access to health care without SCHIP.

In spite of that success, 55,000 children remain without health insurance in Kansas. Many of them are eligible for HealthWave under current eligibility standards. The \$50 billion increase discussed in the Congressional budget resolution process is probably not enough to cover all eligible children, but would certainly be a great step in that direction. We also need to recognize that health care is increasingly hard to afford for middle class families, which is why it is so important that states retain the flexibility to set the eligibility levels that make the most sense for their unique situation.

We are counting on your support for SCHIP reauthorization and look forward to working with you to increase funding and retain state flexibility. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**[Name]**