



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Medicaid Health Plans of America Applauds Passage of SCHIP Legislation *Calls Act the First Good Step for Nation in Providing Essential Health Care Insurance Coverage for 11 Million Children*

Washington, DC; February 4, 2009 — Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the leading trade association solely focused on representing Medicaid health plans, today applauded final passage of legislation by Congress funding health care coverage for 11 million children who have been living without insurance. The newly-enacted legislation will add approximately four million children to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

"The passage of the SCHIP Reauthorization Act of 2009 is essential to expand access to coverage for uninsured children," says Thomas L. Johnson, MHPA's executive director. "The legislation's passage is key in ensuring that children remain healthy and see a doctor when necessary – helping to protect the nation's public health. Providing coverage for uninsured children is in our nation's best interest. All kids should have health care, and this bill is a good first step toward providing the access to the health care coverage which all children deserve."

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Medicaid Health Plans of America or "MHPA" is the leading trade association solely focused on representing Medicaid health plans. Founded in 1993, MHPA's mission is to develop and advance public policy that controls costs and improves access and delivery of quality health care to Medicaid members. For more information, visit Medicaid Health Plans of America at www.mhpa.org or email at mhpa@rcn.com