



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Joan L. Benso
President & CEO

116 Pine Street, Suite 430
Harrisburg, PA 17050
www.papartnerships.org

David W. Sweet, Esq.
Board Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Leslie L. Suhr
717-236-5680
lsuhr@papartnerships.org

PA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN RELEASES STATEMENT ON SENATE PROPOSAL TO SLASH CHIP FUNDING *S.B. 850 proposes \$8 million in cuts; eliminates coverage for 12,000*

(HARRISBURG), May 27, 2009 – Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) today released a statement regarding the devastating effects of the Senate-approved budget plan that would cut \$8 million from the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and leave some 12,000 children without health care coverage.

“Under Pennsylvania’s Cover All Kids law, every Pennsylvania child has access to health care coverage through CHIP, said Joan L. Benso, President and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. “Under the Senate budget bill, the promise of health care coverage for all children could disappear. ”

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance, the state could also forgo nearly \$17 million in federal funds if the Senate budget plan were enacted. The Senate proposal might mean that the department would also have to disenroll children already in the program.

“CHIP, which has a strong history of bipartisan support from governors and members of the General Assembly, has been incredibly successful in Pennsylvania in filling the coverage gap for children whose families do not have access to or cannot afford private insurance,” Benso added. “Currently, 193,000 children are enrolled in CHIP. The Senate plan not only prevents new enrollments but could also remove children from the program which could create a waiting list. CHIP hasn’t had a waiting list since Governor Tom Ridge expanded the program in 1997. We need to keep the promise of Cover All Kids, especially during the current recession when demand for CHIP is increasing.”

CHIP was enacted in Pennsylvania in 1992 and later became the national model for the federal SCHIP program.

For more information, contact Leslie Suhr at lsuhr@papartnerships.org or 717-236-5680.

###