



National Association of Health Underwriters

America's Benefits Specialists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2007

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NAHU Commends Senate Finance Committee for Passing SCHIP Legislation *Act Improves Premium Assistance for Employer-Sponsored Coverage*

(Arlington, VA) – The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) praises members of the Senate Finance Committee for passing bipartisan legislation today to improve the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and ensure that more children obtain much-needed health coverage. The *Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2007* addresses many of the provisions contained in the original legislation that hindered states from adequately implementing the full range of private health insurance market options available to them. SCHIP is a state administered “safety net” for parents who make too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but may not be able to afford private health insurance.

“We feel the proposed Senate reauthorization legislation contains many innovative ideas for how we can maximize SCHIP dollars and enhance beneficiary care and access through better integration with existing private-sector health insurance coverage,” stated Janet Trautwein, NAHU CEO and EVP. “In particular, NAHU appreciates the effort to improve SCHIP’s existing public/private partnership structure by removing some current restrictions that have hindered premium-subsidy efforts of employer-sponsored coverage. Many parents of SCHIP-eligible children have access to employer-sponsored health insurance coverage but cannot afford their portion of the dependent premiums. The Act will make the process for states to voluntarily use SCHIP dollars to subsidize such employer-sponsored coverage much simpler, so that more families can be covered together under the same private-market plans.

“We look forward to our continued work with members of Congress and the Administration on an improved SCHIP program to ensure that the program lives up to its fullest potential and builds upon the best that the public and private sectors have to offer.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents over 20,000 health insurance agents, brokers, consultants and professionals. Its members serve employers and individual consumers in accessing and purchasing affordable health insurance and related products.

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