



Children First
for Oregon

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF SCHIP

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Statement from Robin Christian – Executive Director, Children First for Oregon

“The reauthorization of SCHIP today means that Oregon has even more of an incentive to expand health coverage to over 80,000 children through House Bill 2009. This reauthorization means the federal government will increase its share of the cost of the expansion by \$25 million; that’s money Oregon can’t afford to leave back in Washington.

“All children should be able to access health care, and their parents should have the peace of mind knowing that childhood bumps and bruises won’t turn into life-long health problems.

“When all kids have health coverage, we all win. Our kids will be healthier, our families will be stronger, and our health dollars will be better spent.

“Now that our nation’s leaders have committed to covering children, we must ensure that Oregon takes advantage of this federal funding and expands coverage for kids now by supporting House Bill 2009.

“The finish line is within reach – now’s the time to get all of Oregon’s uninsured kids into coverage programs that have been proven to work – both for kids *and* the economy.”