

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 249**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
212th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 12, 2007

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON
District 27 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress to reject President's FY08 budget proposal limiting State Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility to children with family income no greater than 200% of federal poverty level.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress to reject the
2 President's FY 2008 budget proposal limiting State Children's
3 Health Insurance Program eligibility to children with family
4 income no greater than 200% of the federal poverty level and to
5 restore program funding at a level sufficient to maintain and
6 support state programs.

7
8 **WHEREAS**, The federal State Children's Health Insurance Program,
9 known as SCHIP, was established in 1997 as Title XXI of the
10 federal Social Security Act to allow states to establish a health
11 insurance program for low-income children and to provide states
12 with enhanced federal matching funds of 65% to encourage states
13 to maximize enrollment of uninsured children in the program; and

14 **WHEREAS**, In response to the enactment of SCHIP, New Jersey
15 established the NJ KidCare program in 1997, the NJ FamilyCare
16 program in 2000, and the revised NJ FamilyCare Program in 2005,
17 which combined the two earlier programs, to provide subsidized
18 private health insurance coverage to children whose family income
19 does not exceed 350% of the federal poverty level; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In establishing the highest income eligibility limit for
21 children permitted by federal law, New Jersey sought to address the
22 unacceptably high number of uninsured children in the State and
23 recognized the importance of providing comprehensive health care
24 coverage to as many children in the State as possible; and

25 **WHEREAS**, As of December 2006, approximately 123,500 children
26 were enrolled in NJ FamilyCare, including approximately 28,200
27 children whose family income is between 200% and 350% of the
28 federal poverty level; and

29 **WHEREAS**, President Bush, in his fiscal year 2008 budget proposal,
30 seeks to limit SCHIP eligibility for new enrollees to children in
31 families with annual incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty
32 level; and

33 **WHEREAS**, At a time when the number of uninsured in the State and
34 nation is increasing, scaling back the availability of federal funding
35 for health care coverage for children will have a catastrophic impact
36 on uninsured, low-income families in the State and will ultimately
37 result in even higher health care costs to these families because they
38 will not be able to avail themselves of lower-cost primary,
39 preventive care and will be forced to seek health care in emergency
40 departments of hospitals, which is the most costly setting for the
41 provision of care; now, therefore,

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43 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
44 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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46 1. The Congress of the United States is respectfully
47 memorialized to reject President Bush's FY 2008 budget proposal

1 to limit SCHIP eligibility, and to restore program funding at a level
2 sufficient to maintain and support state programs.

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4 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
5 Speaker of the General Assembly and the President of the Senate
6 and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly and the Secretary
7 of the Senate, shall be transmitted to the presiding officers of the
8 Congress of the United States and each of the members of the
9 United States Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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14 This concurrent resolution respectfully memorializes Congress to
15 reject President Bush's FY 2008 budget proposal to limit SCHIP
16 eligibility to children whose family income does not exceed 200%
17 of the federal poverty level, and to restore program funding at a
18 level sufficient to maintain and support state programs.

19 The federal SCHIP program, (State Children's Health Insurance
20 Program) was established in 1997 as Title XXI of the federal Social
21 Security Act to allow states to establish a health insurance program
22 for low-income children and to provide states with enhanced federal
23 matching funds of 65% to encourage states to maximize enrollment
24 of uninsured children in the program. In response to the enactment
25 of SCHIP, New Jersey established the NJ FamilyCare Program to
26 provide subsidized private health insurance coverage to children
27 whose family income does not exceed 350% of the federal poverty
28 level. In establishing the highest income eligibility limit for
29 children permitted by federal law, New Jersey sought to address the
30 unacceptably high number of uninsured children in the State and
31 recognized the importance of providing comprehensive health care
32 coverage to as many children in the State as funding would permit.

33 At a time when the number of uninsured in the State and Nation
34 is increasing, the President's proposed limit on eligibility will have
35 a catastrophic impact on uninsured, low-income families in the
36 State and will ultimately result in even higher health care costs to
37 these families.