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**REPUBLICANS REJECT HEALTH INSURANCE FOR KIDS, FAIL
TO STAND UP TO MISGUIDED BUSH VETO**
- House Vote Highlights Need for Democratic President in 2008 -

CHARLESTON, WV – According to the Chairman of the West Virginia State Democratic Party, the U.S. House of Representatives' failure today to override a misguided presidential veto to cut-off health insurance for nearly 40,000 West Virginia children is yet another sign that America is ready for a new direction in 2008.

“For seven years, we have seen George Bush and Washington Republicans repeatedly break the nation’s bank for tax cuts for the rich,” said Nick Casey, Chairman of the West Virginia Democratic Party. “Throughout the misguided Bush tenure, the president has always jumped at every chance to spend our tax dollars and neatly tucked away any chance of a veto to help further the Republican policy of running record deficits and debt.”

“We’ve seen no signs of fiscal responsibility, and now all these free-spending Republicans have had an epiphany that now is the time to rein in federal spending at the expense of children’s health. Well, that is wrong,” he said. “These bad Republican policies are yet more proof that we must do everything we can to grow our majorities in Congress and to elect a Democratic president in 2008.”

“We need a Democratic president who can multi-task by implementing fiscally sane policies while also extending health insurance to children,” Casey added.

Casey also noted that while Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV-2) decided to support the Democratic leadership to override the Bush veto, she obviously was unable to bring more Republican votes along with her.

“Perhaps Mrs. Capito is the Darling of D.C., but it is quite evident that she has no pull within the ranks of her party or her caucus on Capitol Hill,” Casey said. “Mrs. Capito must have gotten a free pass from the White House on this vote, and she must have dropped the ball in lobbying her Republican colleagues to do what is right for kids and restoring the CHIP program.”

According to the Washington Post’s U.S. Congress Votes Database, Capito sides with her Republican colleagues and the President more than 85 percent of the time.

Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV-1) and Nick Rahall (D-WV-3) voted to override the president’s veto. U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) has been a major player in shepherding the legislation through Congress, and helped author the original legislation in 1997 that created the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

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