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STEVE PEARCE AND GEORGE BUSH PREVENT NEW MEXICO KIDS FROM GETTING HEALTHCARE

Pearce Is Only New Mexico Representative to Oppose Bi-Partisan SCHIP Bill

(Las Cruces, NM) – Congressional candidate and Doña Ana County Commissioner Bill McCamley slammed President Bush for his veto of funding for the State Children’s Healthcare Insurance Program (SCHIP) on Wednesday and called on Rep. Steve Pearce to change his vote when the bill comes up again.

“This bi-partisan bill would provide healthcare to tens of thousands of kids in New Mexico. Thanks to Steve Pearce and George Bush, it looks like they will go without healthcare,” said McCamley. “Steve Pearce doesn’t get it. As a member of Congress, he can get the best health insurance money can buy, paid for by our tax dollars. But apparently he doesn’t think 11,000 New Mexico kids deserve any. This is what’s wrong with Washington, and this is what I will fight to change when I get there.”

The SCHIP bill passed both houses of Congress in September with bi-partisan support. Today, twenty-nine Republican and Democratic governors signed a letter urging passage of the bill.

“Steve Pearce is so far out of touch on this issue that he’s the only New Mexico representative in Washington to oppose this bill,” said McCamley.

Republican Senator Pete Domenici and Rep. Heather Wilson both support SCHIP, with Senator Domenici urging President Bush not to veto the bill: “While the compromise SCHIP bill is not perfect, it accomplishes the critical objective of ensuring health insurance is more readily available to children in need. I believe it would be a mistake for the President to veto this compromise bill.”

“Investments in children’s health pay off many times over during a child’s lifetime,” Wilson wrote in a letter to her fellow GOP representatives urging support of the bill. “Children’s health care should be a bipartisan issue, and this agreement reflects a bipartisan compromise to improve the health of America’s children.”

According to the *Albuquerque Tribune*, 11,000 more children in New Mexico would receive health insurance with the passage of the SCHIP bill.

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