

Media Statement

January 22, 2009

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**California's Physician Groups Praise President Obama and U.S. House
On Move to Renew State Children's Health Insurance Plan**
California's Largest Healthy Families Provider Network Urges Senate to Act Quickly

LOS ANGELES, CA – In response to the U.S. House of Representatives passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) legislation and President Obama's recent announcement that he will overturn a Bush administration policy that has hindered state efforts to provide health insurance to children from low- and middle-income families, Donald Crane, President and CEO of the California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) issued the following statement:

"We applaud President Obama and the U.S. House of Representatives for their leadership and swift response on this issue. Passage of SCHIP, which funds the Healthy Families program in California, is critical to ensuring that every child who needs access to quality healthcare, despite their financial status, will receive it.

"Our member physician groups are the largest Healthy Families provider network in California and we have witnessed firsthand the proven benefits SCHIP health insurance provides. SCHIP helps children get the preventative care they need, like check-ups, medicine or vaccinations, in order to prevent small problems from growing into bigger and more costly complications.

"We are encouraged by this version of the bill which, unlike prior versions in 2007, does not jeopardize the medical care of one vulnerable population, like seniors, over another. We strongly urge the Senate to act quickly and pass this imperative measure."

About CAPG

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) represents groups that employ or contract with nearly 60,000 California doctors and provide care to 15 million Californians. CAPG is committed to improving health care for Californians and supports a progressive and organized system of health care delivery which focuses on coordinated treatment plans and comprehensive coverage, including the most current preventive services and exams. This allows physicians to focus on illness prevention and proactive management of patients in order to maintain their optimum level of health. www.capg.org.

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