

**Should be CHIPS be extended?**

Nine-and-a-half years ago, Governor Mike Leavitt presented the first Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) card to a family from Sevier County. Since then, thousands of uninsured Utah children have benefited from the federal and state funded children's insurance program. CHIP, was created in 1997 by a Democratic President and Republican Congress as a 10-year program. Because of the millions of children that have been insured, Congress is looking to reauthorize and expand CHIP past the September 2007 expiration date.

However, President Bush has threatened Congress to veto the extension of CHIP. And to lobby for Bush's veto, Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has met some Republican opposition from the threat, including Senator Hatch. Hatch, in an unusual agreement with Democratic Senators, insists that a 61¢ increase in tobacco taxes would help fund the CHIP expansion. This fund will add over 3 million new children to the program while keeping almost 7 million in CHIP. Senator Hatch and his Democratic colleagues accurately address the need on taking care of the children in this country.

Locally, CHIP has seen a partial amount of success in covering the uninsured children of Utah. But over the past few years, our Republican controlled Legislature has resisted in expanding CHIP in Utah. Most people in Utah feel that CHIP is important and we should help cover the insured children.

Richard Watson,  
Chair, Davis County Democratic Party

**JOHN F. KENNEDY:**

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON:**

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

"You can't shake hands with a clenched fist."

-- Indira Gandhi

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.*

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**