

## **SCHIP Reauthorization Passes House and Senate!**

### **Thank you for your Support with SCHIP Advocacy!**

ADHA would like to extend a thanks to all those who recently took the time to send letters to legislators in support of SCHIP reauthorization. Over the past few weeks, ADHA, along with ADA and a number of other oral health organizations, have been reaching out to members to ask them to contact legislators and encourage funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). SCHIP provides uninsured children from low-income families with health insurance coverage.

Prior to recessing for the month of August, both the House and Senate passed SCHIP reauthorization bills. The two chambers passed reauthorization bills that differ significantly and, as a result, leadership from the House and Senate will convene in September to negotiate a compromise bill.

The House version of the reauthorization funds the program at \$50 billion and includes language the ADHA supported to guarantee oral health care coverage under SCHIP. The House bill also includes a provision directing the Government Accounting Office to study the feasibility of using a mid-level oral health provider to work in collaboration with dentists. The Senate version of the reauthorization funds SCHIP at \$35 billion and does not include the federal guarantee for dental services under SCHIP or the mid-level language, but does include \$200 million in grants for states to address access to oral health care for underserved children.

Again, ADHA appreciates the efforts of the many who took the time to send letters and make calls to your legislators. **Your efforts certainly made a difference!** ADHA's Governmental Affairs staff will be sending out additional alerts and messages once Congress reconvenes and work on SCHIP reauthorization resumes. For additional information on SCHIP efforts, visit the Press Room at [www.ADHA.org](http://www.ADHA.org). As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact ADHA at 312-440-8925 or reply directly to this e-mail.