



News Release From . . .

## **Congressman Rodney Alexander** 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Louisiana

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Contact: Jenni Terry  
202/225-8490

### **Alexander Votes to Put Poor Children First** *House of Representatives sustains president's veto of SCHIP expansion*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, issued the following statement today after the House of Representative sustained the president's veto of legislation expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to children from families who earn as much as \$83,000 a year.

**"The outcome of today's vote will ensure that Congress puts needs of our nation's poorest children first. SCHIP was created to assist low-income families with obtaining health insurance for their children, and it is dishonest that Congressional leadership tried to use this vital program as a stepping stone to socialized medicine,"** Alexander said.

**"It is my hope that the attention brought to this program over the past month will bring forth a new awareness of the LaCHIP program and that more of Louisiana's low-income families whose children currently qualify to receive benefits will enroll in the program."**

*NOTE: A recent USA Today/Gallup Poll found that 52 percent of Americans believe that most benefits under SCHIP should go to children in families earning less than 200 percent of the poverty level – about \$41,000 for a family of four.*

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