

REP. WALLY HERGER

FLOOR SPEECH ON STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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Mr. Speaker, all of us support SCHIP, and we all want to reauthorize it.

But we need to put low-income kids first. This bill would expand the program to families making more than \$60,000 a year. That's not "low income" -- it's a majority of all households in America.

There's a better way: Reauthorize S-CHIP and keep it focused on truly needy children. And then tackle rising health care costs that are squeezing middle-class families.

Tax credits could help 10.5 million kids from middle-income families gain or keep their health coverage. Millions more would benefit if families could purchase less expensive health plans across state lines.

Let's defeat this motion and get to work on making health care more affordable for all Americans.