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## **Shuster Votes to Extend SCHIP Until 2009** ***House Passes Clean SCHIP Extension Free of Giveaways to Illegal Immigrants, and Tax Hikes***

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** voted in favor of legislation to extend the SCHIP program 18 months until March of 2009. In addition to extending SCHIP, today's legislation also includes an important 0.5 percent update to the Medicare physician reimbursement rate. Congressman Shuster released the following statement on the vote:

“Today's vote may have been a failure of Democratic leadership, but it was a victory for America's children and anyone who supports good government. This extension ensures that low-income children will not see an interruption in their medical care and that no state will see a reduction in their SCHIP benefits.

Over the past few months, Democrats have attempted time and again to politicize SCHIP by opening it to illegal immigrants, tax increases, and making it a test case for socialized medicine. Each of their attempts ultimately failed at the point of the President's veto pen.

Today's legislation does not raise taxes and it does not include giveaways to illegal aliens. Today's SCHIP extension does is exactly what should have been done months ago. It gives Congress the time necessary to work in a *bipartisan* manner to craft a bill that will provide benefits to those low-income, uninsured children for whom the program was originally created.

Additionally, this legislation includes much needed updates to Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors. Without the 0.5 percent increase in Medicare reimbursements, many doctors in rural areas like the 9<sup>th</sup> district would have been forced to stop treating Medicare patients. I am pleased that Congress took action to prevent our doctors from leaving areas that are in need of their services the most.”

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