

Protecting Children's Health

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San Diego clergy, community, and healthcare leaders gathered at Faith Chapel Church of God in Christ to release a "Report on Children's Health" that will be presented to the congress in Washington DC. [Read the Report](#)

The report details the shortfalls California and other states will face in the coming years and clear action steps that Congress and states must take to continue to move forward in health care for children.

The San Diego group will join 400 clergy and families from 17 states across the country in Washington DC on March 7 to participate in the San Diego Organizing Project and PICO National Network's "Faith and Families Summit" on Children's Health Care.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, provides 800,000 California children with affordable health coverage through the California Healthy Families program. If Congress does not allocate the necessary funds, California will face a \$200-million shortfall in federal SCHIP funding beginning in 2008.

Proponents of the program want Congress to increase annual funding for children's health by \$10-\$12 billion annually (\$50-\$60 billion over five years) when and if it reauthorizes the SCHIP program.