

# Faith leaders continue kids' health effort

WASHINGTON, March 20 (UPI) -- U.S. religious leaders Tuesday continued their pressure on Congress to extend health insurance to all children.

Currently, there are about 9 million uninsured children in the United States.

Three hundred clergy members in the PICO National Network released a letter calling on Congress to add \$60 billion to the State Children's Health Insurance Program budget so that states can afford to enroll all eligible low-income uninsured children.

Twenty-five faith communities across the country have also planned prayer services and phone-in events to Congress for this week.

The group is calling on Congress to cover all children by 2012 through supporting SCHIP, incentives to help states reach and retain children eligible for programs, and allowing states the option of covering pregnant women and legal immigrant children.