

Pols, patients plead for kid health care

By **Anita Davis**

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A push for increased federal health-care funding for children won some powerful allies in Massachusetts yesterday as U.S. Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry and Boston Mayor [Thomas M. Menino](#) backed the effort.

The funding, advocates at the Children's Hospital press conference said, will help 82,000 Massachusetts residents who rely on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which is set to expire Sept. 30.

At the event, Dedra Lewis said the program saved her daughter Alexsiana's eyesight after Lewis lost her health care coverage.