

Interfaith Action Rallies for Kids

by Leah George
photo by Andrew Heinze
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Some state and federal lawmakers have said getting uninsured kids health coverage is a top priority. More than 400 clergy members and families from across the country plan to rally this week on Capitol Hill to make that happen.

Six local delegates from Interfaith Action boarded a plane for the summit Tuesday.

They're rallying for expanded health care for children and the reauthorization of the 'State Children's Health Insurance Program' or (SCHIP).

They say many people in their congregations have children who benefit from the program.

SCHIP provides coverage to more than four million low-income children whose families do not qualify for Medicaid.

Nearly 12,000 of those kids live in Monroe County.

"Having adequate healthcare means they're gonna grow up healthy, gonna grow up productive adults. If they don't have adequate healthcare it becomes a tremendous burden on our system," Interfaith Action Executive Director Brian Kane said.

Kane said keeping coverage for kids at the current level will cost an additional \$10 to 15-billion dollars because of the increased cost of health care.

The federal law authorizing SCHIP is set to expire at the end of September.