

The Desert Sun

Letters to the Editor for Tuesday, August 7, 2007

A yes vote needed

In Coachella, 24 percent of children do not have health insurance, and 22 percent of children rely on Healthy Families - funding for which comes from the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

In February, pastors from the valley met with Rep. Bono and asked her to support reauthorization of SCHIP. Rep. Bono said she would support the highest number she could.

In March, leaders from my church, including an uninsured student from Indio, met with Rep. Bono's staff in D.C. and encouraged support for SCHIP as part of the Faith and Families Summit on Children's Health. Over 400 community leaders and clergy participated.

With over 85,000 children uninsured in Riverside County and our state trying to find a way to cover kids, it disappoints us to see Rep. Bono vote against children.

The AARP, Republican governors including Gov. Schwarzenegger and Republicans in the Senate and House support a strong SCHIP.

For the faith community, this is a moral issue. Every child deserves the blessing of good health, and SCHIP funding will make sure that another 5 million kids receive this blessing. The final vote will be in September.

We hope Rep. Bono will vote Yes for kids.

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Coachella