

## Eshoo Votes to Provide Health Insurance to 11 Million Children

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, voted today for legislation she championed to provide health insurance for 11 million low-income children and strengthen Medicare for America's seniors. The House approved H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007, by a vote of 225 to 204.

"This is one of the most rewarding days for me since coming to Congress," said Eshoo, a member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. "With passage of the CHAMP Act, America meets an obligation to the most vulnerable members of our country, low-income children, and I'm proud to have fought for this critical legislation."

The CHAMP Act reauthorizes and improves the landmark State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is due to expire on September 30th. The legislation preserves healthcare coverage for 6 million low-income children enrolled in the program now and provides resources for states to identify and enroll an additional 5 million uninsured kids.

California has the largest SCHIP program in the country with 1.4 million low-income children. The CHAMP Act will provide the state with the ability to enroll over 1 million additional children.

The CHAMP Act strengthens Medicare by preventing a scheduled 10 % cut to physician reimbursements so that seniors can continue to see the doctors of their choice. It also includes legislation sponsored by Eshoo and Rep. Sam Farr, D-Santa Cruz, to provide new patients with access to Medicare services in Santa Cruz County. Geographic-based low reimbursement rates prompted Santa Cruz County doctors to stop taking new Medicare patients in June 2006, forcing seniors to drive significant distances to adjacent counties to receive care. CHAMP increases reimbursements to Santa Cruz County doctors for three years beginning January 1, 2008.

"Seniors deserve the same access to Medicare services no matter where they live," Eshoo said. "This legislation helps Santa Cruz County seniors now and brings us one step closer to a permanent solution."

The CHAMP Act is fully paid for with new revenues from tobacco products and savings from wasteful overpayments to private Medicare insurers, and will not add a cent to the deficit or the national debt, Eshoo said.

Eshoo's Floor Statement on the CHAMP Act.

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