



**Representative Louise M. Slaughter**  
**Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules**  
**Representing New York's 28<sup>th</sup> District**

# **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**Rep. Slaughter Joins President Obama at SCHIP Signing**

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***Critical Legislation Preserves Health Care for 650,000 Children in NY, Extends Coverage to 250,000 Children in NY***

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**Washington, DC** - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today will join President Barack Obama at the White House as he signs the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act into law. This is the second major piece of legislation President Obama will sign.

**"I am thrilled to join President Obama as he signs this landmark bill to provide health care for 11 million children across the country and hundreds of thousands in New York,"** said Rep. Slaughter. **"This critical legislation to provide coverage to America's children has been one of my top priorities in Congress."**

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This legislation reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through FY 2013. The bill provides health care to 11 million children from modest-income families by preserving the coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP, including 650,000 children in New York, and providing coverage for 4.1 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid, including over 250,000 children in New York.

**"The fact that hundreds of thousands of children in New York are uninsured**

**highlights the tremendous need for this legislation,&quot; Slaughter continued. Covering more eligible children is not only the right thing to do - it is more cost-effective than using hospitals as pediatricians.&quot;**

## **BACKGROUND**

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children in families that earn too little to afford health insurance for their children but too much to qualify for Medicaid. This bill will give states the resources and incentives necessary to reach and cover millions of uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid.

The bill is fully paid for by raising the tobacco tax by 62 cents, which promotes children's health by discouraging kids from smoking. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a 62-cent increase in the tobacco tax means that nearly 1.9 million fewer children will take up smoking.

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