Madam Speaker, yesterday this House made the historic

step of reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program, known as

SCHIP, so we can give 10 million low-income children health care. This

plan not only ensures current enrollees do not lose coverage, but it

will help cover 3 million additional children in low-income families

who are currently eligible for the program but not yet enrolled.

Unfortunately, President Bush has threatened to veto the bill over

and over. He instead supports his own plan which would actually result

in thousands of low-income kids losing their health care coverage,

according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

It is also important to mention that the plan we passed is fully paid

for. This is in stark contrast to the over $400 billion that the

President has already asked the taxpayers to spend in Iraq. In fact,

for the cost of just over 3 months in Iraq, we could insure these 10

million children for 5 years without adding to our Nation's debt.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the President to reconsider his ill-

advised veto threat and pledge to protect health coverage for America's

children in need.