

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today strongly criticized the President's veto of the bipartisan House-Senate agreement on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization, arguing that the veto puts Arizona's uninsured children at risk.

"The President's veto sends a troubling message about his priorities," said Mitchell. "For years, he refused to use his veto pen to block reckless spending and big oil tax giveaways, but he dusted out the pen to say no to children's health care. It's simply unconscionable. There are more than 65,000 low-income children who receive health insurance through Arizona's KidsCare program, and another 82,000 children who would have qualified. The President today put those children at risk."

One in every five Arizona children do not have health insurance.

The bipartisan SCHIP Reauthorization agreement paved the way for 82,600 new Arizona children to become eligible for health insurance coverage by 2012. Last week, the agreement passed the House with a strong, bipartisan 265 to 159 vote.

According to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), more than 65,000 low-income children and more than 14,000 parents receive health insurance through Arizona's KidsCare program.