

Covering All California Children: Getting the Job Done

Kelly Hardy, MPP, MPH
Children Now / 100% Campaign

*Health Policy for the Future:
Our Children, Our Communities*
March 30 2006

Californians for Healthy Kids

Launched in 2004 by 100% Campaign and
PICO California Project with the goal of covering all kids.

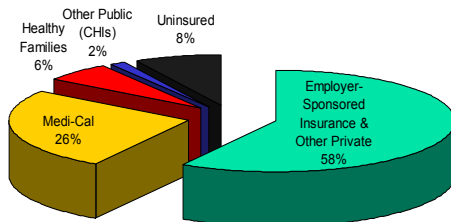
More than 300 supporters:

- Local Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs)*
- Business
- Labor
- Legislators
- Health plans
- First 5 coalitions
- Parents
- Teachers
- Foundations
- Health providers
- Consumer advocates

*Local CHIs are county initiatives to fill gaps in coverage for kids. Seventeen counties currently operate CHIs and thirteen more are in planning stages.

Children's Health Coverage

Roughly ten million children in California in 2003:





Uninsured Children in California

- 779,000 uninsured children in California
- 55% currently eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families
- Roughly 75% live in counties with local CHIs
- California is tied for ninth in the nation for highest % of uninsured children



Uninsured Kids in Fresno County

Percent of Uninsured Children	2001	2003
Fresno County	9.7%	8.7%
SJ Valley Counties	10.7%	7.9%
California	10.3%	7.7%

Approximately 24,000 of Fresno County's children are uninsured

*Data is from 2001 & 2003 California Health Interview Survey



Kids Who Lack Insurance

- Less likely to receive essential preventive care
- More likely to rely on costly emergency rooms for routine care
- Perform less well in school
- Leave parents unprotected against catastrophic health care costs in case of accidents or serious health conditions



2005 Legislative Effort

- AB 772 (Chan)
- SB 437 (Escutia)
- AB 1199 (Frommer)



2005 Legislative Effort

Governor vetoes AB 772 and AB 1199

“I believe that children should be insured but this bill fails to address a critical question: How to pay for it?”



The Initiative: Covering All Kids

Ensures all children have access to affordable health insurance

- Children under 19 with family incomes at or below 300% FPL, not currently eligible for Medical or Healthy Families, will be eligible for Healthy Families
- Pilot projects to develop coverage strategies for children with family incomes above 300% FPL



The Initiative: Covering All Kids

Makes it easier for families to enroll their children and keep them covered

- Paperwork reduced
- Enrollment simplified and expedited, using various doors: CHDP, School Lunch, WIC
- Renewal process redesigned
- Smooth transition for children moving from CHIs to Healthy Families



The Initiative: Covering All Kids

Creates Healthy Kids Oversight and Accountability Commission

- Consumers and consumer advocates, health care providers, health plans, local CHIs, schools, business, organized labor and county agencies
- Guides implementation of the initiative
- Ensures taxpayer dollars are spent wisely



The Initiative: Covering All Kids

Creates the California Healthy Kids Account

- Includes the dollars needed to cover all kids (roughly \$371 million)
- Will fund coverage for newly eligible children
- Funds will supplement, not supplant, existing state and federal obligations to children's health care

The Initiative

Key Points – Children’s Health Section

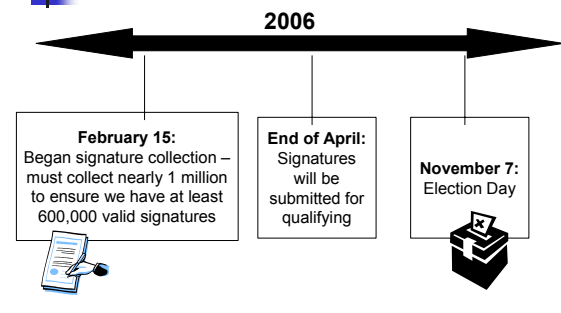
- Initiative allows Legislature to amend children’s health section by a simple majority in order to implement the program and further its purposes (except “supplement not supplant” provisions)
- We are closer than ever to providing opportunities for health insurance for all California kids

Other Efforts to Secure Children’s Health Insurance this Year

- State budget process
- Legislation

Initiative success first priority; budget & legislative strategies are complementary

Initiative Timeline





Next Steps/Getting Involved

- Volunteer to collect signatures from friends, family members, coworkers, and others
- Call PICO California for more information about signature gathering (Rebecca Stark at 916-447-7959 x 11)



Next Steps/Getting Involved

Learn about the initiative, other efforts to secure children's health coverage, and how to get involved at
www.100percentcampaign.org
www.picocalifornia.org
