

## Covering All California Children: Getting the Job Done

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Children's Defense Fund California  
100% Campaign

*Health Policy for the Future:  
Our Children, Our Communities*  
March 17 2006

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## 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.

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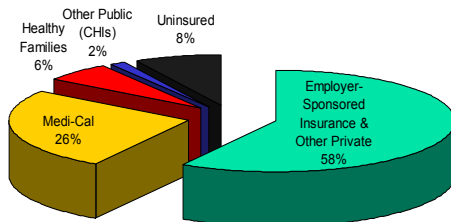
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## Children's Health Coverage

Roughly ten million children in California in 2003:



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### 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

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### 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

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### 2005 Legislative Effort

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

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## 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?”

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## 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 Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, will be eligible for Healthy Families
- Pilot projects to develop coverage strategies for children with family incomes above 300% FPL

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## Other Efforts to Secure Children's Health Insurance this Year

- State budget process
- Legislation

Initiative success first priority; budget & legislative strategies are complementary

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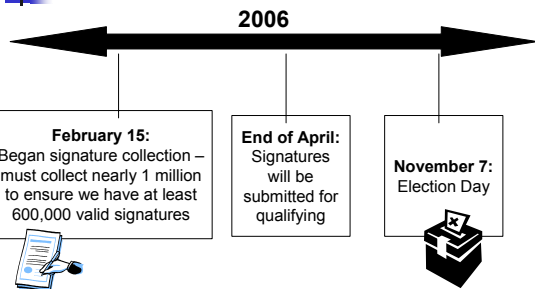
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## Initiative Timeline




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## 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)

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## Next Steps/Getting Involved

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Learn about the initiative, other efforts to secure children's health coverage, and how to get involved at  
[www.100percentcampaign.org](http://www.100percentcampaign.org)  
[www.picocalifornia.org](http://www.picocalifornia.org)

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