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Akin Opposes Expanding SCHIP by Billions *Is concerned employers will tend to drop private plans*

Washington, DC - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) stated that despite various objectionable provisions, such as the lack of appropriate proof of citizenship for beneficiaries in the Democrat SCHIP bill, his primary objection to the bill is that it is fiscally irresponsible and does not focus on SCHIP's objective of providing insurance to children in poverty.

Congressman Akin expressed his concern that the SCHIP program which currently provides health insurance for children in poverty was being expanded well beyond its original scope.

"This bill seeks to significantly expand the entitlement program by \$35.4 billion over its current baseline in the next five years in order to cover not only poor children, but those in families with up to 300 times the poverty level and even some adults," said Akin. "Considering the cost of the program, responsibility dictates that we look at what the bill really does as opposed to just looking at what the bill's supporters claim that it does."

Akin also noted that constituents who do have private insurance plans offered through work may face losing that option as more employers drop such coverage as SCHIP becomes increasingly pervasive to their employees.

"I am concerned that under the guise of providing insurance for poor children, democrats are seeking to bring socialized medicine to main street," said Akin. "As we increase the scope of government provided healthcare beyond the aid of the poor, we are increasingly socializing our medical system, and with that will come consequences to those who have private plans."

The Congressional Budget Office is reporting that the proposed SCHIP expansion will force approximately 2 million children off of private health plans and onto the government program. "This is a real concern of many constituents in my district as we are seeing more and more pensioners losing their private prescription drug coverage as they are being dropped in lieu of increasingly available government programs," said Akin.

