

month segments. That's too hard. That's too hard to make decisions. That's too hard to govern with that kind of apportionment.

So, if we are not able to come to a decision before the 16th of November, I would argue for a much longer term of reauthorization under a continuing resolution. And although the numbers would stay the same, as they were in the bill that was passed in 1997, the dependability of having those funds I think is something most State Governors would want. I hope that State Governors will weigh in on this issue with Members of both political parties and impress upon them the importance of providing the stability of that source of funding as we go forward in this process.

Mr. Speaker, again, remember, the population of children that was originally the object of focus in the original State Children's Health Insurance bill were those children, that population of children that was between 150 percent and 200 percent of the Federal poverty limit. Ask yourself the question, where we are today, have we covered the majority, 90 or 95 percent of the children in that bracket? And the answer to that question is no. Let's do the hard work of finding those children, identifying them, and getting them into the program. Let's do that hard work before we go after easier applicants in higher income brackets.

The whole intent of the program was to provide the coverage for those who needed it the most; and Mr. Speaker, they still need it. Their needs have not changed. Even though our focus has changed to successively higher income groups, those children in the 150 to 200 percent of poverty, too much money to be covered under Medicaid, not enough money to buy private health insurance for about half of them, there are children in that bracket who remain uncovered to this day.

Let's put our outreach efforts on those children. Let's put our focus on those children and bring those children into a condition of coverage before we begin to vastly expand the program. And I think that's the message that has been delivered by the ranking member of my Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ranking Member BARTON, the ranking member of my subcommittee, Ranking Member DEAL. That's been the message. That's been the focus that they have consistently articulated on the floor of this House, and they're exactly correct. If we don't want to do the hard work, the American people will see through that. And if we just simply want to bring other children into the program, children who already have coverage from some other location, to expand the program, just simply expand the program for expansion's sake, to expand the reach and grasp of the Federal Government, are we doing right by those children that are just too tough for us to find? No, I don't think so.

I think, although it's hard work, it's good work. I think the States have the

means, the mechanism and the capability of finding those children. And that's what we ought to be about in this body, encouraging them to find those children and bring them into the program. Then, and only then, can we talk about expansion beyond that limit. And if, indeed, we can show that across the country we have identified those children, we have brought them into the program, and then we want to talk about expansion and there's the money there to do it, I'm all for it. But until we identify those children, until we have made certain that we have covered the children that we were supposed to cover in the first place, we really don't have any business trying to expand the program.

I would argue for an upper limit being placed at 250 percent of poverty. I think that is a reasonable upper limit. If we cover 95 percent of the children below 200 percent of poverty and then we expand that to children up to 250 percent of poverty and we do a good job of identifying those children, I think the SCHIP program is functioning as intended and providing the coverage it needs to provide.

And Mr. Speaker, let me just go back to the previous slide for a moment. If we identify those children, and perhaps expand to cover some children who are in up to the 250 percent of poverty, fill in the gaps, look what's happened. We're covering almost all the children in the United States of America, and that's something of which every Member in this House can be proud, Republican and Democrat alike. And wouldn't it be great if we worked together to accomplish that instead of going after the cheap political hit and trying to advance our own power.

Mr. Speaker, you have been very generous with your time tonight. In summation, I would just say once again, I favor the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. I want to see that program reauthorized. I want to see it done sensibly. I don't want to see us grow the reach and grasp of the Federal Government unreasonably. I want us to keep families involved in their own health care. And Mr. Speaker, I think we can do it. It is hard work. It is going to have to require some compromise on both sides, but after we sustain the President's veto on Thursday, I look forward to getting involved in the process and getting that work done because it's the right thing to do for America and it's the right thing to do for our kids.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WILSON of Ohio (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 17 on account of medical reasons.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for October 15 on account of travel and weather problems.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SNYDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KAGEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, October 23.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, October 23.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, October 17.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1495. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3727. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21748; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-071-AD; Amendment 39-15044; AD 2007-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3728. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211 Series Turbofan Engines; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2006-25584; Directorate Identifier 2000-NE-62-AD; Amendment 39-14733; AD 2006-17-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3729. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Artouste