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A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to timely reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program to assure federal funding for the Florida Kidcare program.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards the health of children to be of paramount importance to families in the state, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and social and psychological well-being of the children of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers protecting the health of children to be essential to the well-being of Florida's youngest citizens and the quality of life in the state, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the Florida Kidcare program, which was created in 1998 and currently has 1,388,520 children enrolled in the program, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida recognizes the value of the Florida Kidcare program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the federal funding available for the Florida

1 Kidcare program to be indispensable to providing health
2 benefits for children of modest means, NOW, THEREFORE,

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4 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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6 That the Legislature urges the members of the Florida
7 delegation to the United States Congress to ensure that the
8 Congress reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance
9 Program (SCHIP) to continue to provide federal funding for the
10 Florida Kidcare program.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the
12 Governor to work with the Florida delegation to ensure that
13 SCHIP is reauthorized in a timely manner.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the
15 Governor to provide the assistance necessary to identify and
16 enroll children who qualify for Medicaid or the Florida
17 Kidcare program.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature proclaims
19 that all components of state government should work together
20 with educators, health care providers, social workers, and
21 parents to ensure that all available public and private
22 assistance for providing health benefits to uninsured children
23 in this state be used to the maximum extent possible.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
26 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
27 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
28 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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