

Congress Delivers Health Care Victory for Children in California and Across the Nation

House of Representatives Approves Medicaid Funding Extension That Will Provide Over \$1 Billion to California

Sacramento – Today, the United States House of Representatives approved a bill that extends critically-needed federal Medicaid funding for California and at least 29 other states. California has already received much of the estimated \$11.2 billion in enhanced Medicaid funding that is due under current law, which will expire at the end of 2010. As states across the country face enormous budget deficits, California and other states are in desperate need of this six-month extension of \$16 billion in Medicaid funding to ensure continuous, quality health care to children and families. Peter Manzo, President and CEO of United Ways of California, released the following statement:

“Congress continued to demonstrate its leadership to meet the health care needs of Americans by approving federal funding that helps meet the rising need for affordable, Medicaid health coverage for children and families. Today’s action by the U.S. House of Representatives, along with last week’s vote by the Senate, to extend the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) will enable California to receive approximately \$1.3 billion to protect essential health care services for more than 3.5 million children enrolled in the Medi-Cal program. And as California struggles with a mounting budget deficit, this funding will make it easier for the Governor and Legislature to avoid balancing the budget with cuts that will jeopardize the health and safety of our children.

We thank Speaker Pelosi, along with those members of California’s Congressional delegation, who voted in favor of this funding extension that is so desperately needed back home.”