



IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in America

For Immediate Release

**IPC Thanks Congress and Administration for Safeguarding the Health of
Legal Immigrant Children and Mothers
*SCHIP Builds Momentum Towards Practical and Fair Immigration Reform***

February 4, 2009

Washington, D.C.--Today President Obama will sign the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act into law, extending health care benefits to legal immigrant children and pregnant women. The Immigration Policy Center's Director Angela Kelley issued the following statement today.

"It's a breath of fresh air that the new Congress and President overcame the politically-charged immigration debate that has, for some time, stymied this important legislation.

For years, legally-residing children and pregnant women have been denied federal health care benefits during their first five years in the United States. This is welcome news as no child should have to wait five years to see a doctor or get a vaccination. Immigrant children become citizens and, just like their native-born counterparts, are tomorrow's entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, and Nobel Prize winners. This law is a wise investment in America's children as it ensures that they remain healthy and productive.

With passage of this bill we see that the new Administration and Congress are ready to embrace and solve the toughest issues we face as a nation. Providing everyone with the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life is at the core of American values. Passing SCHIP is the first stop, the next stop is common sense immigration reform. We congratulate Congress and President Obama on this important achievement.

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For press inquiries contact:

Wendy Sefsaf, 202-507-7524 (office) or email wsefsaf@ailf.org

Andrea Nill, 202-507-7520 (office) or email anill@ailf.org

THE IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

1331 G STREET • WASHINGTON, DC 20005 • TEL: (202) 507-7500 • FAX: (202) 742-5619

www.immigrationpolicy.org