

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Youth to Deliver “Band-Aid” Petitions to Ohio Congressional Delegation

***Youth seek members support of SCHIP expansion & override of
presidential veto***

Columbus, OH – Youth members of the Ohio Federal Budget Coalition are delivering “band-aid” signature petitions to almost all members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation pushing members to support reauthorization and expansion of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. COHHIO’s Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) homeless and transitional youth collected signatures on “band-aid” petitions from other youth and adults across Ohio in support of expansion of the SCHIP program. “Congress must follow through on its commitment to fully fund SCHIP and provide health insurance to approximately 4 million new American children,” said Angela Lariviere, COHHIO’s Youth Advocacy Director.

President Bush has threatened to veto a congressional expansion of SCHIP, which is expected as the deadline for expiration of the SCHIP program nears. Congress is expected to come to an agreement that would provide nearly 4 million new children with health coverage. “Reauthorization and expansion would provide thousands Ohio children will access to health insurance,” said Lariviere. “However, a presidential veto could jeopardize access to health coverage for millions of America’s children. Members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation must be prepared to overturn a presidential veto of a much needed expansion of SCHIP.”

Youth from YEP and the Ohio Federal Budget Coalition are calling on members to support reauthorization and expansion of SCHIP and to overturn a likely presidential veto of the bill. “Many Ohio families and children are often faced with tough decisions when it comes to health care. Reauthorization and expansion of SCHIP will ensure that thousands of uninsured Ohio children receive the safe, quality health care they truly need,” said Lariviere. Youth from the YEP program, while delivering the “band-aid” signature petition to members, will speak to their personal need for reauthorization of expansion of SCHIP.

The Ohio Federal Budget Coalition is a statewide coalition of organizations committed to a federal budget that supports the needs of low and moderate income Ohioans. The Youth Empowerment Program empowers youth by increasing opportunities to take control of their situations while building self esteem and improving the quality of life through advocacy, leadership and education.

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