

GINNY BROWN-WAITE  
5TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2007

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The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor  
State of Florida  
400 S Monroe St  
PL05 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Crist:

I appreciate your thoughts on the SCHIP reauthorization currently in the House, but I think you should be more careful with federal legislation that receives your comments. The bill before me in the House would push 43,000 of my constituents off Medicare Advantage. Statewide, over 690,000 will lose coverage under Medicare Advantage Plans. I will not ever, ever, support legislation that puts any program ahead of my seniors, period. I cannot be more clear. I cannot support this expansion when it includes cuts to hospitals, senior rehabilitation, or a 43% cut to home oxygen programs, just to name a few. I know it is difficult to put seniors first, but they are our most vulnerable and the most dependant on government assistance. I will keep my promise to my seniors.

I know SCHIP. You may remember that during our time in the State Senate, while others on our side were silent, I fought to provide funding for Florida's program. I made the tough choices to fund SCHIP that did not come at the expense of senior programs. That is the course that this Congress should pursue. We should not ever expand entitlements at the expense of America's Medicare Trust Fund. I am disappointed that your letter fails to mention that SCHIP funding should not come at the expense of Florida's seniors.

While I always look forward to working with you on behalf of Florida's future, I am sorry we disagree on this issue.

Sincerely,



Ginny Brown-Waite  
Member of Congress

GBW:pm