

**WASHINGTON** – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) issued the following statement after a House vote today that sustained the President's veto of a bill that would expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover adults without children and illegal immigrants.

**"It's time to put the partisan politics aside and pass a bill that insures poor and needy children first. There are 46,000 kids in Alabama who don't have this health insurance coverage, and they are always my priority. We can immediately make this a better program for the low income children it was designed for, rather than provide benefits for adults without children and illegal immigrants. In Michigan, for example, it is projected that in 2008 more than 70% of SCHIP funds will be spent on adults with no children, a cost paid by all federal taxpayers including Alabamians. Despite our objections, the Democrats' SCHIP will also cost Americans \$6.5 billion to insure illegal immigrants, including adults. SCHIP was once a bipartisan program before the majority tried to turn it into a political issue. There's no reason why we can't work together and pass a reauthorization that is focused on the actual needs of poor children in Alabama and across the nation."**