



## **Reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Essential to the Health of Connecticut's Next Generation**

### **Statement of Jennifer Jackson, President, Connecticut Hospital Association**

The health and well-being of Connecticut's children is at stake as Congress and the Bush Administration debate the future funding of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides desperately needed healthcare services to thousands of Connecticut children.

Every day, Connecticut hospital clinics and emergency rooms care for uninsured families and their children—often these are the only places where they can obtain treatment and services. We see the health consequences for children because they haven't been able to access preventive or timely care. All of Connecticut's children—including the more than 8% of children who are uninsured—deserve a better start in life by having access to the healthcare services they need.

We are grateful that Congresswoman DeLauro is working with the Connecticut Delegation, the Rell Administration, hospitals, and others to push aggressively for legislation that provides adequate funding for children's health services.

Connecticut hospitals join with Congresswoman DeLauro in calling for SCHIP legislation that ensures a healthier tomorrow for Connecticut's future—our children.