

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2007

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HEALTH CARE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEBRASKA'S LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN SENATE
AND HOUSE HEALTH CARE BILLS

Senator Nelson stands up for Nebraska's children

LINCOLN, August 3, 2007 - Yesterday, the Senate passed a bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), called Kids Connection in Nebraska. The bill presents Nebraska with the opportunity to provide health care access to more of its uninsured low-income children.

SCHIP is a highly successful program that provides critical health care coverage to our nation's low-income children and has significantly reduced the number of uninsured children in the U.S. and Nebraska. Both the Senate and the House passed SCHIP bills that include significant increases in funding for the program and other policy improvements. The funding and provisions of both of these bills mean that Nebraska can continue to provide health care to those children already enrolled in its Kids Connection program and can provide vital health care access to even more children who are eligible for the program but who were not participating. Over half of the uninsured children in Nebraska are eligible for Kids Connection but are not enrolled.

Senator Nelson was the only member of the delegation to support this broadly bipartisan and highly successful program. "With this vote Senator Nelson demonstrated his true commitment to Nebraska's children, their health and their futures," said Becky Gould, Executive Director of Nebraska Appleseed. "We hope our other representatives take the opportunity on the final vote to prioritize health care access for Nebraska's children."

Kids Connection has been a successful, cost-effective, and essential program, providing critical health care for some of the State's most vital resource - its children. The Senate and House SCHIP bills provide Nebraska with the opportunity to strengthen its Kids Connection program and to continue to prioritize its children and their health.

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Nebraska Appleseed, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest law project, is a national leader in addressing social problems facing vulnerable children without loving and permanent homes, low-income families working hard to make ends meet, and new immigrants seeking a better life. Nebraska Appleseed's current year action plan and description of its five program areas, significant litigation and

policy reform successes, and broad-based accomplishments can be found at neappleseed.org.

Nebraska Appleseed is a part of the Appleseed network of independent state-based public interest law centers working to identify and address social injustices. The Appleseed network seeks to build a just society through education, legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise by addressing root causes and producing practical, systemic solutions with broad implication. For more information visit appleseednetwork.org.

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