

WASHINGTON- Today Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) voted against a measure to override the President's veto of HR 3963, SCHIP measure that passed the House on October 25th, 2007 and was vetoed by President Bush on December 12, 2007. Today's override vote failed.

It is important to note the House passed the SCHIP Extension Act, S. 2499 on December 19, 2007 by a vote of 411-3. That bill, which extends SCHIP funding through March 31, 2009 was signed into law by the President on December 29, 2007.

"Today's SCHIP veto override vote represents an unnecessary political maneuver on the part of the Democrat majority. This issue is moot. SCHIP was passed almost unanimously in December and it extends the program until March 2009. This chest thumping effort seems silly if not a complete waste of valuable time," said Congressman Lee Terry.

Congressman Terry supports SCHIP funding, but is not in favor of a plan that covers adults, illegal immigrants, wealthier families and kids who already have private insurance on the government dole. The nonpartisan Urban Institute estimates that more than 530,000 children already in families currently eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP (earning 200 percent of the federal poverty level or less) are not enrolled.

"The priority should be to first make sure that all the children who need assistance with health care are able to get it, and states like Nebraska that has a well-run program continues to get the funding it needs," said Congressman Terry.

