

“I am extremely frustrated.

“The so-called “compromise” S-CHIP bill brought to the House floor today was filled with nothing but empty promises. Since the first S-CHIP bill was brought to the House floor in September, many of my Republican colleagues and I have been eager to support a bill that extends and expands health coverage to American kids from low-income families – not adults, illegal immigrants, or wealthier families. In fact, House Republicans and the Administration have expressed a strong desire to provide the necessary money to ensure adequate expansion of S-CHIP.

“Sadly, now when the House has the opportunity to come together and develop a true compromise, the majority, instead, is continuing to play political games. While claiming that the “compromise” bill addresses our concerns, only superficial changes have been made to the old S-CHIP bill.

“Additionally, while many members of the California delegation returned to their districts to help their constituents as fires continue to ravage the southern portion of the state, the House leadership proceeded to schedule a vote on this important bill. This is the same party that delayed an earlier S-CHIP vote by two weeks in order to accommodate attack ads by MoveOn.org; however, when a natural disaster has burned more than 426,236 acres and destroyed 1,436 homes, they refuse to delay the vote by even one legislative day.

“The Democratic leadership today exploited the absence of these members in an attempt to pass yet another S-CHIP bill that fails to cover poor American kids first. They have no shame.”

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