

**United Way  
of New York City**

2 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel (212) 251-2500  
Fax (212) 596-1039  
unitedwaynyc.org

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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**LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE**

S4057 Stewart Cousins  
A7515 Kavanagh

**TITLE**  
2011

The Child Health Plus and School Meals Enrollment Coordination Act of

**AN ACT** to amend the public health law and the social services law, in relation to establishing the child health plus and school meals enrollment coordination act of 2011

**REASONS FOR SUPPORT**


The purpose of this bill is to increase uninsured children's enrollment in public health insurance by improving coordination between the School Meals program and Child Health Plus. This would be accomplished by allowing children who apply for and participate in either free or reduced price school meals to also enroll in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

The primary goal of United Way Worldwide's health agenda is to increase, by one third the number of children, young people and adults who are healthy and avoiding risky behavior. The ability to obtain preventative and needed medical care is an essential component of living a healthy life. A key indicator for that goal is the number of children under the age of 18 who are uninsured. Currently, nine million children in the U.S. do not have health insurance. According to the United Hospital Fund, almost 7% of New York City's children are uninsured yet seven out of ten uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage. Among the barriers to coverage is that many families with eligible children do not know that they are eligible or have difficulty completing the enrollment process.

This legislation would be a significant step in reducing barriers to enrollment in public health insurance and helping to reduce the coverage gap for children in New York State. It makes sense to build upon current public programs that are easily accessible and already used, by children in the target population, to achieve health care coverage goals.

Accordingly, United Way urges the earliest possible favorable consideration of this proposal by the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Alejandro Martinez  
Chief of Staff

Date: 6/2/10

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LIVE UNITED**

