



**For Immediate Release: January 15, 2009**

## **BARROW BACKS BIPARTISAN BILL TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR 11 MILLION CHILDREN**

*CHIP Legislation Is Likely to be One of the First Bills  
Signed into Law by President Obama*

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) yesterday joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives in support of legislation to provide health care to 11 million children in families who would otherwise not be able to afford health care coverage. The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2) was approved by a vote of 289-139. The bill is essentially the same legislation that President Bush vetoed twice in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Congressman Barrow was a co-sponsor of the bill.

“This is not only the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do,” said Barrow. “This bill will allow families who would otherwise have to send their kids to the emergency room to send their kids to a doctor, which saves everyone money in the long run. Not only that, we get more healthy kids who are better prepared for learning and success.”

“More and more American parents are losing employer-sponsored health care for their children, and the need for this legislation is growing every day. I’m proud to support H.R. 2, and I hope President Obama signs it as soon as he takes office.”

H.R. 2 reauthorizes the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through FY 2013, and preserves the coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP, including preserving the coverage of 207,000 children in Georgia. The bill also extends health care coverage to 4.1 million additional low-income children, who are currently uninsured.

Congressman Barrow’s floor statement follows:

### **Congressman John Barrow Floor Statement in Support of H.R. 2 January 14, 2008**

I’m proud to be up here today to support H.R. 2, “The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.” It’s been a long time coming. I’m glad we’re considering this bill on the floor so early in this Congress, when

we spent most of the last two years trying to enact it. I think that says something very positive about the commitment of this new Congress, and of our new President, to improving health care for all Americans.

H.R. 2 will allow us to enroll 4 million more kids in programs like Georgia's PeachCare who are just as eligible as the 7 million kids who are already enrolled. It's not a free lunch – parents will still pay what they can afford to pay. But their kids will be able to go to the doctor, where they can get good preventive care at the lowest cost – and keep them out of the Emergency Room, where they get the least effective health care at the greatest possible cost to the taxpayer. That's more health care at less cost. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. That's why I'm proud to be a cosponsor and a supporter of this legislation, and why I urge my colleagues to support it.

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