CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts Would Shift Costs onto HUSKY Families and Providers and Result in Thousands of Children Losing Health Coverage

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Just as the economic recession has increased unemployment and increased the risk of families losing employer-based health coverage, Governor Rell has proposed balancing the budget with substantial cuts to children's health care coverage in the HUSKY Program. The Fiscal Year 2010 budget cuts she proposes would make coverage less affordable for nearly 16,000 children in Connecticut's successful HUSKY B Program by:

- Imposing premiums in HUSKY B Band 1 (coverage for children under 19; for example, families of 3 with annual income between $33,873 to $43,028);
- Increasing premiums in HUSKY B Band 2 (coverage for children under 19; for example, families of 3 with annual income between $43,028 and $54,930);
- Increasing co-payment requirements in HUSKY B (currently there are no co-pays for preventive services and nominal co-pays for other services).

New and increased premiums would result in thousands of children losing HUSKY coverage. When HUSKY B premiums were raised in 2004 and again in 2005, thousands of children would have lost coverage had the premium increases gone into effect. Recognizing the harmful impact, policymakers repealed the premiums—***twice.*** Connecticut should avoid repeating mistakes of the past. If families lose their HUSKY coverage, the costs for children's health care will shift elsewhere in the health care system in the form of increased use of emergency rooms and uncompensated care in clinics, provider's offices, and hospitals.

Co-payments would discourage use of needed health care. Families that have difficulties paying co-payments for care are likely to forego needed care or be turned away by providers who have been unable to collect for previous visits. The burden for increased co-payments will fall on families and on the providers and hospitals that must collect the new fees.

In order to "save" $1 in state funds for HUSKY B, the Governor must cut over $3 in spending and forego federal matching dollars. For every dollar Connecticut spends on HUSKY B, the federal government reimburses 65 percent. In order to save a projected $840,000 by increasing premiums, Connecticut must cut $2.4 million from HUSKY B and forego $1.56 million in federal matching funds. In order to save a projected $70,000 by increasing co-payments, Connecticut must cut $200,000 from HUSKY B and forego $130,000 in federal matching funds.

These cuts would mean that thousands of children would lose health coverage and access to health care, though the state would save relatively little money.

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If adopted, the effect of these cuts to coverage for children in the HUSKY Program will be felt in every town in Connecticut!

Children Enrolled in HUSKY B by Town (12/1/09)

Andover	17
Ansonia	128
Ashford	33
Avon	40
Barkhamstead	17
Beacon Falls	29
Berlin	101
Bethany	21
Bethel	131
Bethlehem	22
Bloomfield	65
Bolton	11
Bozrah	10
Branford	118
Bridgeport	815
Bridgewater	7
Bristol	333
Brookfield	93
Brooklyn	38
Burlington	18
Canaan	35
Canterbury	30
Canton	32
Chaplin	13
Cheshire	75
Chester	10
Clinton	73
Colchester	81
Colebrook	5
Columbia	32
Cornwall	12
Coventry	50
Cromwell	57
Danbury	573
Darien	32
Deep River	27
Derby	71
Durham	12
East Granby	11
East Haddam	31
East Hampton	59
East Hartford	356
East Haven	185
East Lyme	70

East Windsor	44
Eastford	6
Easton	6
Ellington	65
Enfield	200
Essex	35
Fairfield	155
Farmington	92
Franklin	5
Glastonbury	112
Goshen	17
Granby	19
Greenwich	113
Griswold	77
Groton	97
Guilford	103
Haddam	27
Hamden	208
Hampton	23
Hartford	532
Hartland	9
Harwinton	37
Hebron	32
Kent	23
Killingly	85
Killingsworth	20
Lebanon	48
Ledyard	63
Lisbon	7
Litchfield	61
Lyme	5
Madison	66
Manchester	333
Mansfield	47
Marlborough	29
Meriden	374
Middlebury	25
Middlefield	9
Middletown	205
Milford	193
Monroe	48
Montville	81
Morris	24
Naugatuck	202

New Britain	422
New Canaan	18
New Fairfield	69
New Hartford	29
New Haven	393
New London	86
New Milford	195
Newington	167
Newtown	157
Norfolk	11
North Branford	62
North Canaan	*
North Haven	110
North Stonington	26
Norwalk	390
Norwich	140
Old Lyme	32
Old Saybrook	39
Orange	45
Oxford	37
Plainfield	111
Plainville	116
Plymouth	88
Pomfret	13
Portland	39
Preston	14
Prospect	31
Putnam	49
Redding	45
Ridgefield	39
Rocky Hill	54
Roxbury	13
Salem	14
Salisbury	22
Scotland	*
Seymour	90
Sharon	17
Shelton	138
Sherman	21
Simsbury	90
Somers	31
South Windsor	92
Southbury	57

Southington	205
Sprague	13
Stafford	67
Stamford	612
Sterling	16
Stonington	79
Stratford	305
Suffield	28
Thomaston	78
Thompson	22
Tolland	61
Torrington	274
Trumbull	142
Union	*
Vernon	135
Voluntown	18
Wallingford	186
Warren	6
Washington	24
Waterbury	570
Waterford	45
Watertown	92
West Hartford	206
West Haven	297
Westbrook	30
Weston	17
Westport	34
Wethersfield	116
Willington	27
Wilton	25
Winchester	86
Windham	100
Windsor	113
Windsor Locks	56
Wolcott	104
Woodbridge	11
Woodbury	29
Woodstock	22

***enrollment less than 5**

Source: ACS, Inc.