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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE OF GREATER LOS ANGELES  
REMAINS COMMITTED TO COVERING ALL KIDS**

(November 8, 2006, Los Angeles, CA) – The Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles will continue its effort to provide health coverage for all children in Los Angeles County despite voters' failure to pass Prop. 86, the tobacco tax initiative which would have significantly increased funding for children's health insurance statewide.

"This was a missed opportunity to invest in expanding health coverage for all children," said Howard Kahn, CEO of L.A. Care Health Plan, a co-convenor of the Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles. "Although Prop. 86 failed, we remain committed to the vision of health coverage for all children. Polls still show that most Californians support health coverage for all children and we will act on that."

The Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles is a coalition of nearly 50 diverse organizations dedicated to providing health coverage to all uninsured children in Los Angeles County. In 2004, the coalition launched Healthy Kids, a comprehensive health insurance program for children from low-income families who do not qualify for state-sponsored health insurance such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

Since the launch of Healthy Kids, the Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles has enrolled nearly 45,000 children in the program. Eligibility screening for the Healthy Kids program has also led to an increase in the number of applications for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

The Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles plans to continue working with the Governor and California Legislators to find a sustainable solution to children's health coverage.

(more)

“Children’s Health Initiatives across California have proven that covering all kids can be done effectively and efficiently,” said Kahn. “We will continue to work with the Governor and legislators to make health coverage for every child a reality. An investment in children’s health coverage is an investment in California’s future. Our kids can’t compete if they can’t see the black board or miss school because of illnesses that can be prevented with access to basic health care.”

***About the Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles***

*The Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles (CHI) was formed over two years ago with the overarching goal to create public policies to keep kids healthy and ensure that no child has to go without health insurance. The CHI was created by the Children’s Health Initiative Coalition — a public-private group of healthcare providers, private employers, business leaders, advocacy groups, foundations, public health officials and labor unions. Key financial supporters of the Initiative include First 5 LA, L.A. Care Health Plan, The California Endowment, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and the California Community Foundation. Healthy Kids, the flagship health insurance program for the CHI, is administered exclusively by L.A. Care Health Plan. For more information about the Children’s Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles or the Healthy Kids program, please visit [www.chigla.org](http://www.chigla.org) or call 1-888-4LA-KIDS (1-888-452-5437). A full list of Coalition participants is available upon request.*

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