

## Vote for Kids!

### Informing California Voters Where Congressional Candidates Stand on Children's Issues

#### CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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##### CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

- **FACT:** Children with health insurance are more likely to get timely health care. Conversely, children without health insurance are less likely to receive or more likely to delay needed care, resulting in more costly treatment in the future. Currently, nine million U.S. children do not have health insurance.

**QUESTION:** What will you do to ensure that every child in the U.S. has affordable, comprehensive health insurance? What is your timetable?

- **FACT:** SCHIP is a successful and popular children's health insurance program covering over 6 million children who would be uninsured without these programs. Federal SCHIP funding expires in March of 2009. States design their SCHIP programs to meet their populations' needs.

**QUESTION:** What would you do to ensure the continuation of children's health insurance programs like SCHIP? How will you address the issues of states' roles in designing children's health insurance programs?

##### E-HEALTH FOR CHILDREN

- **FACT:** Regardless of their insurance status, children often do not receive recommended care. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)—electronic health records, telemedicine, and other similar tools—can improve access to and delivery of high-quality pediatric care.

**QUESTION:** What will you do to promote children's health and improve systems of care for children through better use of ICT?

- **FACT:** At least 5.5 million uninsured children are eligible for public insurance coverage but are not enrolled. This represents 62% of all uninsured children. ICT can efficiently reach these eligible children, enroll them into the appropriate program, and help them keep that coverage while also generating cost-savings.

**QUESTION:** How would you use public sector ICT to improve the administration of and simplify enrollment of eligible children into public health programs?

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS

- **FACT:** The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) mandated that all students be technologically literate by the eighth grade. However, digital literacy is not factored into the law's accountability provisions, and most states do not administer tech literacy tests. A 2006 survey of 400 of the top Fortune 500 companies conducted by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills found that even the best-educated university graduates were deficient in the skills necessary for the workplace.

**QUESTION:** How would you improve digital literacy and 21st Century skills of K-12 students?

- **FACT:** The federal E-Rate program, one of the nation's universal service programs, has made it possible for schools and libraries in America to get and stay connected to the Internet. Today, more than 95% of schools and public libraries are connected to the Internet compared with 14% in 1996.

**QUESTION:** What would you do to ensure that schools have continued access to a vital and relevant E-rate program?

- **FACT:** The United States, which invented the Internet and was once the leader in broadband communications, continues to fall behind other nations in broadband subscription. And in other countries, such as Japan, South Korea and Iceland, consumers get much faster Internet service for the price Americans pay. Millions of families in America live in homes without broadband; many have only one provider or none at all, and pay more for their service than families in other parts of the world do.

**QUESTION:** What would you do to stimulate broadband deployment and ensure that it is equitably available to children in the United States?