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FCAN Unveils New TV Ad Campaign Slamming Rep. Ric Keller for Continuing to Stand in the Way of Healthcare for 10 Million Kids of Working Families

Americans United for Change Television ad asks Keller "How do You Sleep at Night?" After Voting to Deny Healthcare to 232,000 Florida Kids



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Orlando, FL – Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN), which has helped lead the national “Campaign to Save Children’s Healthcare,” unveiled a new television ad today funded by coalition partner [Americans United for Change](#) taking U.S. Rep. Ric Keller (R-FL) to task for continuing to stand in the way of healthcare for 10 million American children. Rep. Keller has repeatedly voted against the **Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act** – critical and hugely popular legislation to reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for 6.6 million kids and expand coverage to nearly 4 million more low income children, including [232,000 more kids in Florida](#). In response, Americans United for Change is airing a new television ad in the Orlando Media Market entitled [“What If?”](#) that asks Rep. Keller how he would vote if his own children’s healthcare was at stake, pointedly concluding: “How do you sleep at night, Congressman Keller?” **View the Ad Here:** http://www.americansunitedforchange.org/blog/entries/what_if_rep_ric_keller/

On October 24th, without the support of Rep. Keller, the [U.S. House](#) passed a revised version of the bipartisan children’s healthcare bill that included language to address any and all of his concerns about illegal immigrants, adults and children from high-income families benefiting from the program. But even with these concerns taken off the table, Rep. Keller *still* chose to once again stand with Bush over the thousands of parents in his district who go to bed every night praying their children don’t get sick or hurt. Though the legislation to reauthorize and enhance SCHIP has passed the House and Senate for the second time with wide bipartisan majorities, Rep. Keller continues to side with Bush’s Republican allies in the House who intend vote to once again to sustain a promised veto of SCHIP.

“Rep. Keller is all out of excuses, yet he continues to play petty partisan games with legislation that would mean healthcare for 232,000 more kids from working families in Florida,” said Jeremy Funk, spokesman for AUFC. “Rep. Keller owes these families an explanation how he can support spending half a trillion dollars fighting an endless war in Iraq, but oppose spending a fraction of that on healthcare for his most vulnerable constituents here at home. It’s a question of priorities, and Congressman Keller has his all mixed up. The fact is, for what we spend in just one week in Iraq, 800,000 children could get health insurance for an entire year.”

“It’s time for Rep. Keller to stop parroting half-truths and distortions from the White House and start representing Florida families,” added Funk. “These are not illegal immigrants he’s voting to deny healthcare – these are not adults and children from high-income families. These are kids whose parents work hard but can’t afford private insurance and are not disadvantaged enough to qualify for Medicaid. Rep. Keller will soon have another chance to do the right thing and help provide 10 million American children the healthcare they need and deserve. However, if he continues to stand in the way of healthcare for kids while supporting a blank check for President Bush’s failed war in Iraq, this campaign is prepared to not let a single family in his district forget it. If Rep. Keller again puts blind loyalty to this President ahead healthcare for sick kids, the question must be asked: **“How do you sleep at night, Congressman?”**”

“What if” comes on the heels of Americans United’s most recent television advertising campaign on children’s healthcare targeting Rep. Keller entitled “Abby.” [CLICK HERE TO VIEW “ABBY”](#)