



S. _____, the MediKids Act
Senator Andy Kim

Children deserve a healthy start in life, and that starts with access to healthcare from day one. Unfortunately, America has been moving in the wrong direction, with the number of uninsured children rising again after years of declines. It is time to take a bold step to ensure health coverage for every child and young adult in this country.

Background:

Since 1966, we have provided health insurance to older Americans through Medicare, which has helped increase health and decrease costs for our seniors. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act allowed young adults in the commercial market to stay on their parents' health plans, guaranteeing millions of young adults access to affordable health coverage until age 26. Now it is time to care for our children like we care for our seniors, by providing all children and young adults with continuous coverage through MediKids.

The rate of uninsured children had a steady decline from 2008 to 2016, but since then, those gains have eroded. In 2024, the number of uninsured children hit 6.1 percent of all children within the United States—that is approximately 4.7 million kids. This is unacceptable, and recent legislation like the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is only going to make things worse. Instead of making it harder for people to get health insurance and seek health care, we should be making it easier. Instead of healthcare being something you have to qualify for, or pay for, healthcare should be a right, and we should start by guaranteeing that right to our youngest and most vulnerable. As a community, we should provide this care for our children.

The MediKids Act

The goal of MediKids is to support the health and economic security of every child and young adult in the United States by providing free, high-quality insurance coverage from birth to age 26. MediKids does this by automatically enrolling every child and young adult in America in Medicaid's robust Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children who are enrolled in Medicaid.

Specifically, this legislation would:

- Automatically enroll every child in MediKids at birth
- Provide continuous eligibility for children enrolled in MediKids until age 26; and
- Cover 100% of the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for this population.

This legislation has been endorsed by the following national groups: First Focus Campaign for Children, What To Expect Project, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, (ACOG), ZERO TO THREE, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Association of

To cosponsor the MediKids Act, please contact Sara Maskornick at sara_maskornick@kim.senate.gov.

Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), National Association of School Nurses, National Education Association (NEA), Families USA, MomsRising.

This legislation has been endorsed by the following New Jersey groups: NAACP NJ, Save Our Schools, New Jersey Citizen Action, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, The Arc of NJ, The New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, CASA of New Jersey,