



Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

9:27 AM

512/463-4000

FAX: 512/463-4965

P.O. Box 13528

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-3528

April 13, 2004

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
State of Texas
Capitol Building, Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

HAND DELIVER

Dear Governor Perry:

For the sake of the children, I respectfully request that you open the call of the fourth special session of the 78th Legislature to the issue of restoring full and complete funding to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

This is not about politics—this is about saving lives.

Since September, 119,000 children have been dropped from the health insurance plan set up to help the working poor.

You are sitting on \$583 million dollars that could be used to put thousands of our children back on the insurance program. You must act now.

And you must instruct your Health and Human Services Commissioner to back off plans to further restrict the number of children eligible for the health insurance plan. If you do not make that call, thousands of families will be faced with making the heart-wrenching choice of setting aside money for their children's education or losing their children's health insurance.

As Governor, only you can open the call of this special session to restore health insurance for Texas' most needy children. However, we all must answer to the people and our own conscience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Keeton Strayhorn".

Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Texas Comptroller

