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More SCHIP News

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyRcbGME2Xs>

<http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index>

www.piconetwork.org

PICO Cover all Children Time Line.pdf

Cover all Children Campaign overview.pdf

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PICO celebrates as President Obama signs SCHIP legislation

Early this month, President Barack Obama signed the SCHIP reauthorization bill into law, allocating almost \$33 billion in new Medicaid and SCHIP funding over the next four-and-a-half years to provide critical health care coverage to another 4.1 million children. Participation in the SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program) effort, which began in May, 2005, was PICO's first national advocacy campaign in the organization's 30-plus years.

Greater Long Beach ICO leaders traveled to Washington, DC, several times during this effort to join other PICO affiliate leaders to lobby for strong SCHIP legislation. Although former President George W. Bush vetoed two bipartisan SCHIP bills in 2007, A third bill with strong bipartisan support was passed in January, and President Obama signed the bill on February 4th at a celebration with PICO families from New Orleans and Philadelphia in attendance.



The bill signed by the president met the key elements for which PICO and its partners advocated. It extends health coverage for more than four years to allow states to structure local programming to cover all children. And it eliminates the five-year waiting period for legally documented immigrant children

Click on the picture above to see more photos from the signing event. Click on the links to the left, under "More SCHIP News," to learn about PICO's partners in the SCHIP work and the timeline of our involvement, starting with the California Children's Health Initiative work that began in 2001.

The efforts of ICO and other PICO affiliates over the past two years have brought us this important victory. Our work does not stop with this bill, however. Many in our communities still lack access to quality affordable health care. ICO has convened a Health Care Task Force, and we are beginning a set of visits to local health agencies and health care providers to see if we can craft creative and meaningful local approaches to the continuing health care crisis.

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First Church hosts Air Quality Town Meeting



First Congregational Church is hosting an Air Quality Townhall Meeting to provide information on Port and Railyard-related activities and other pollution sources plaguing downtown Long Beach.

The Townhall meeting is scheduled for 2:00pm on Saturday, February 28 in Patterson Hall. For more information, contact Ben Rockwell at (562) 432-0448, or ICO Community Organizer [Luz Vazquez-Ramos](#).

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ICO's 3rd Annual Celebration Honors Rose Cabanban



At ICO's 3rd Annual Celebration of Gifts, long-time Westside community activist Rose Cabanban was honored for her work and received The Rev. Marvin Kennon Award.

City Councilmember Tonya Reyes-Uranga joined others to celebrate Rose's contribution to her community, along with Father Michael Roebert of St. Lucy's Catholic Church and Rose's children. Father Mike, Rev. Marguerite Lovett of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach and Janet Rhodes, a member of First Congregational Church, were also honored and received the Alves Award, complete with a hat embroidered with the ICO logo.

Some 200 ICO leaders from across Long Beach attended this year's celebration, held at First Congregational Church, and enjoyed a beautiful slide presentation on Jesus in Art from former Museum of Latin American Art Curator Gregorio Luke. The event also featured raffles, a silent auction and food representing the rich diversity of Long Beach and our ICO member congregations.

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