

The  
*Madison Policy Digest*

Friday · August 3<sup>rd</sup> · 2007

Presented by: **The James Madison Institute**

**“CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AS FLORIDA’S PREMIER FREE-MARKET THINK TANK”**

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**JMI News Briefs**

\* An innovative, market-based reform plan was launched in 2006 as pilot projects, now that the data from the pilot projects' first two quarters has now been compiled, shows impressive results such as Increased number and types of plans available to beneficiaries, Increased access to services not previously covered by providers, and Rapid growth in the Enhanced Benefits Program (beneficiaries earn credits for engaging in “healthy behaviors”) to find out more about the results of this successful pilot program, read JMI’s latest Backgrounder from Dr. Mike Bond: <http://www.jamesmadison.org/article.php/587.html>

\* Currently under debate in U.S. House and Senate committees is a proposal to drastically increase taxes on tobacco products to finance expansion of government-funded health insurance for children to include families making 300-400% above the poverty level (\$62,000 - \$84,000 yearly income). For more read the latest JMI opinion editorial from Marc Kilmer: <http://www.jamesmadison.org/article.php/588.html>

\* This past Wednesday, JMI hosted a luncheon in Tallahassee from 12:00 to 1:30 to celebrate the birthday and life of pioneering economist, Milton Friedman. The Keynote speaker for the event was JMI Senior Fellow, Dr. James Gwartney.

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**Featured Topics**

**HIGH NOON IS APPROACHING  
THE \$18.7 MILLION BLUNDER  
A SCHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK  
MORE LIKE ROBBER BARON  
MAKING NUCLEAR CLEAR**

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**This session should be fun**

*Orlando Sentinel*  
By John Kennedy  
July 29, 2007

Florida's upcoming legislative session on budget cutting ought to be, well, pretty special.

The third extra session of the year will occur in an increasingly tense political atmosphere -- with House Speaker Marco Rubio last week blistering fellow Republican Gov. Charlie Crist in print on two separate occasions.

The theme under Rubio's byline rang clear: Crist is too liberal

"They're both going to tell you they're great friends," said Senate Minority Leader Steve Geller, D-Hallandale Beach. "But it's clear there is a real split within the Republican Party.

"Gov. Crist has been taking the Republican Party in a more centrist direction, and I think most of the rest of the Republican leadership doesn't want to head in a centrist direction," he added.

For complete article click here: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/columnists/orl-capview2907jul29.0.6584889.column>

## Audit Faults KidCare Spending

*The Tampa Tribune*

By Catherine Dolinski

Aug 3, 2007

TALLAHASSEE - Florida's health insurance program for low-income children misspent at least \$18.7 million in federal money during the first half of 2005, federal auditors estimated in a report released Thursday.

Florida KidCare, which blends federal and state dollars to cover the health care of needy children, made somewhere between 519,508 and 797,411 payments over 6 months in 2005 to families that did not qualify for the program, according to the estimates of the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The auditors think the total federal funds improperly spent fell between \$18.7 million and \$32.58 million. Total federal dollars spent on the program during this time was \$115 million.

For complete article click here: <http://www.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBUERQ2W4F.html>

## Senate Health Reform: Paying More to Help Fewer

*The Heritage Foundation*

By Robert E. Moffit, Ph.D. and Greg D'Angelo

July 28, 2007

Among other proposals, the Senate is eyeing two plans to provide health coverage to those currently lacking insurance. Plan 1 would extend coverage to around 4 million Americans for billions of dollars. Plan 2 would extend coverage to 24 million for no more than we're spending now. Guess which approach Senate leaders are pushing?

If you picked Plan 1, congratulations! You know that Washington almost always favors the least effective and costliest option available.

Both houses of Congress are considering legislation to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) -- a 10-year old program designed to subsidize health coverage for kids in low-income families that can't afford insurance but make too much to qualify for Medicaid.

For complete article click here: <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed072807a.cfm>

## SCHIP Expansion: Robin Hood in Reverse

**It could happen under new rules legislators approved.**

*National Center for Policy Analysis*

By Devon Herrick and Matt Baumann

July 31, 2007

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which covers 6.7 million children and adults, will expire in September. SCHIP consists of 50 different federal-state health plans for children (and in some states adults) in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. Typically, families with incomes above the poverty level, but no more than 200 percent of poverty, are eligible.

The Senate Finance Committee recently voted to reauthorize the program. The Senate bill would expand eligibility to children in families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$62,000 for a family of four. House Democrats would raise income limits even higher — to 400 percent of the poverty level (\$83,000 for a family of four) — well above the median income.

For complete article click here: <http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba589/>

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### Opinion

## Conservation won't eliminate need for nuclear

*The Gainesville Sun*

By Dr. Jack Ohanian

July 28, 2007

Leaders of Florida's environmental groups correctly point out the continued potential of energy-efficiency improvements for restraining energy consumption and limiting carbon dioxide emissions. But their dismissal of nuclear energy is regrettable because, whatever the success of conservation, large supplies of energy will continue to be needed.

Nuclear energy is the most practical source if we hope to minimize the use of fossil fuels.

Florida is growing. New nuclear power plants will be crucial to meet the rising energy demand caused by our state's expanding population and economy. Safe and reliable, nuclear plants meet the need for "base-load" electricity, without polluting the air or loading the atmosphere with carbon emissions.

Utilities here and in other states are gearing up to build new nuclear plants, in the expectation that a plant producing nuclear-generated electricity over its lifetime will achieve substantial financial savings compared to a plant using fossil fuels. Today, the production costs of nuclear electricity in the United States are one-fourth those of a plant using natural gas and marginally less than a plant burning coal.

For complete article click here:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20070729/EDITORIALS0101/707290303/-1/editorials>

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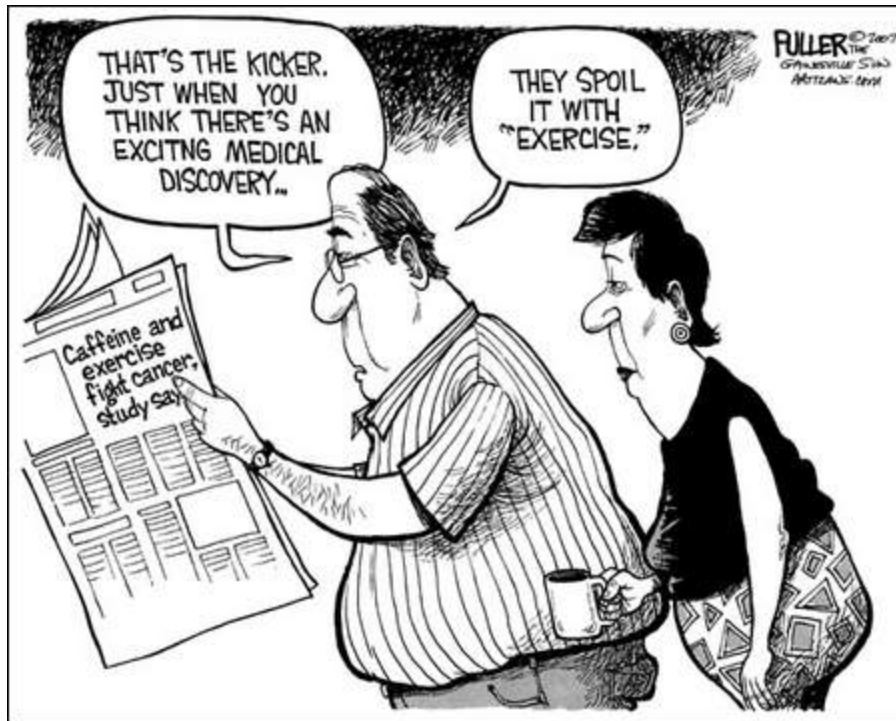
### Quote of the Week

“A society that puts equality before freedom will get neither. A society that puts freedom before equality will get a high degree of both.”

– Milton Friedman

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**Cartoon of the Week**



Jake Fuller, The Gainesville Sun

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**Speakers' Bureau**

Need a speaker for your next event? JMI's team and network of scholars are available to headline or participate in your organization's next gathering. JMI staff will help you match the topic with the appropriate speaker. To learn more contact Thomas at 850-386-3131 or [Thomas@JamesMadison.org](mailto:Thomas@JamesMadison.org)

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