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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Taking Action to End Poverty

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Contact:

Joanna VanderWoude, Media Relations Associate
(219) 644-8216

Blagojevich Makes Health Care Top Priority

Governor Blagojevich's August 14th announcement that he will use his executive authority to expand access to health care for the people of Illinois is an important move. Access to health care is the most important domestic concern among voters in Illinois and nationwide. The Shriver Center applauds Governor Blagojevich for acting to make health care a top priority. The announced expansions of coverage apply to hard-working parents, low-income individuals currently ineligible for Medicaid, anyone without insurance who needs breast or cervical cancer screening or treatment, and young people 19 through 21 with health problems that prevent them from getting private insurance. The Governor's plan would also help low-income individuals and families afford premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance.

Most of these measures were recommended by the Illinois Adequate Healthcare Taskforce after two years of study and hearings. They make sense for Illinois, because they build smoothly onto programs already in place. They reduce the numbers of uninsured, and they increase the security of those with insurance who fear that they could lose it or see it become too expensive. If the Governor is able to find adequate funds, we support these health care measures.

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law champions economic opportunity through fair laws and policy so that people can move out of poverty permanently.

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50 E. Washington Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60602 312.263.3830 Fax: 312.263.3846 www.povertylaw.org