

HEALTH CARE

Senate passes bill to expand children's health coverage

By ROBERT PEAR
New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a bill on Thursday to provide health insurance to more than 4 million uninsured children, as a newly empowered Democratic majority brushed aside Republican objections.

The vote was 66-32, with nine Republicans joining Democrats

'Unemployment is obviously increasing, and no doubt our numbers (of uninsured) are going to grow, too.'

LESLIE CONNOR, Santa Cruz County Healthy Kids

to support the bill.

Former President George W. Bush twice vetoed similar legislation. But President Barack Obama is eager to sign the bill as a step toward providing insur-

ance for all children and eventually all Americans.

The Senate debate showed the outlines of what promises to be a much larger political fight over universal coverage. While Dem-

ocrats championed expansion of the child health program, many Republicans, including Sen. John McCain of Arizona, said they worried that it was part of a long-term effort to replace private health insurance with government programs.

The House passed a nearly identical bill two weeks ago, by

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COAST LINES

Sutter lauded for support of children

Sutter's Marjorie S. Sponner, chair of the Health Care Committee, lauded Sutter for her support of the Healthy Kids coalition.

Sutter has donated \$500,000 to the coalition to support other health care coverage programs. Sutter also has donated \$100,000 to the coalition to support other health care programs.

County Supervisor John Sponner, who is also a representative in the assembly, said Sutter's support of the coalition is a great example of leadership. Sutter's support of the coalition is a great example of leadership. Sutter's support of the coalition is a great example of leadership.

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