



# State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)  
50 North Ripley Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

July 2, 2010

**CYNTHIA UNDERWOOD**  
Assistant Commissioner  
**MICHAEL E. MASON**  
Deputy Commissioner  
**LEWIS A. EASTERLY**  
Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

2010-16

TO: License Plate Issuing Officials

FROM: Amy Bright, Registration Unit Supervisor *ab*  
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: *Helping Uninsured Children* Distinctive License Plate Category

The Alabama Child Caring Foundation, which sponsors the *Helping Uninsured Children* distinctive license plate category, is closing its business. Accordingly, **effective August 1, 2010, please discontinue issuing and renewing all prenumbered and personalized *Helping Uninsured Children* distinctive license plates.**

Prenumbered license plates should be removed from your shelves and retained for audit. Registration system programmers – please ensure that tag types HL (prenumbered) and HX (personalized) are invalid beginning August 1, 2010.

If any additional fees are collected for the *Helping Uninsured Children* distinctive license plate after August 1, 2010, they must be refunded to the customer, as the State Comptroller's office will no longer be able to make a distribution for these tag types.

A press release regarding the closing of the Alabama Child Caring Foundation is attached and may be provided to supporters of the *Helping Uninsured Children* distinctive license plate. If they have any questions regarding the closing of the foundation, they may contact the foundation at (877) 220-5929.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Registration Section at [tags@revenue.alabama.gov](mailto:tags@revenue.alabama.gov) or (334) 242-9006.

Attachment



## **BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 11, 2010**

**Contact:**

**Koko Mackin**

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama**

**Vice President, Corporate Communications**

**205-220-2713**

### **New Legislation Impacts Alabama Child Caring Program**

*More Children Have Opportunity for Coverage through ALL Kids and Medicaid*

Birmingham, Ala. — Recent changes in federal and state funded health insurance programs allow more children to qualify for Alabama’s Medicaid and ALL Kids programs. These changes have led the Alabama Child Caring Program (ACCP) to reassess its role.

“The federal government and the State of Alabama increased the income level to qualify for government-financed health insurance programs that benefit children,” said Barbara Hutchinson, Executive Director, Alabama Child Caring Foundation. “These family income levels are now higher than what’s allowed by the Alabama Child Caring Program. As a result, we will be working with the families whose children are covered in our program to help them secure healthcare coverage through ALL Kids and Medicaid.”

In response to these federal and state changes, Blue Cross’ Alabama Child Caring Program will close on January 1, 2011, after providing healthcare coverage to more than 71,000 children during the past 22 years.

There are several factors that influenced the decision to close the program. The Alabama Legislature increased the upper income limit for participation in the ALL Kids program from 200 to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This increase exceeds the ACCP’s upper income limit of 235 percent of the FPL and significantly increases the number of children eligible for ALL Kids. Additionally, premium credits and subsidies included in the recently enacted federal healthcare laws will expand availability of health insurance to families with incomes up to 400 percent of the FPL.

Blue Cross created the ACCP in 1987 to provide medical coverage to underprivileged children whose parents could not afford healthcare coverage but earned too much money to qualify for governmental assistance programs. The service was provided by the ACCP with donations from donors and dollar-for-dollar matching funds from Blue Cross.

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The ACCP has worked collaboratively with ALL Kids and Medicaid to provide healthcare coverage to children throughout the State of Alabama. As a result of this collaboration, the number of uninsured children in Alabama has decreased from 230,000 in 1988 to approximately 41,000.

“Working together with donors, state agencies and healthcare providers, we have been able to provide healthcare coverage for so many children that Alabama has the second lowest percentage of uninsured children in the nation,” Hutchinson said. “We remain committed to the children of Alabama and will continue to support programs that help our state’s children in need. I want to thank every donor and healthcare professional for your contributions toward helping these children receive the best healthcare possible.”

All donations received by the ACCP on or after May 1, 2010 will be returned to donors. Although claims costs for children currently enrolled in the program will exceed revenue by a considerable amount, Blue Cross will cover claims costs through December 31, 2010.

*About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama*

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, the state’s largest healthcare benefits provider, has insured Alabamians for more than 70 years. Blue Cross offers coverage plans to the state’s corporations, individuals and senior market. For more information about Blue Cross, visit **[www.bcbsal.com](http://www.bcbsal.com)**.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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