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Idaho Voices for Children names Rep. Mike Simpson as 2008 'Children's Champion'

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The Idaho Voices for Children Foundation awarded its 2008 "Children's Champion" Award to Idaho's District 2 Rep. Mike Simpson at IVC's Children's Champion Luncheon on Friday at The Grove Hotel in Boise.

IVC selected Simpson for the award because he has been an advocate for Idaho's children and families, exemplified in his bipartisan support for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), according to IVC. "Congressman Simpson was chosen to receive this award because of his unwavering support for the reauthorization of SCHIP," said Hollis Brookover, president of Idaho Voices for Children. "Because of his professional background, he understands how important a medical home and regular preventive care are to positive outcomes for children and society." SCHIP helps working low-to-middle income families obtain affordable health care for their children. In Idaho, the SCHIP Block Grant funding currently allows about 5000 children and teens from working families to have access to affordable health coverage. "Children are our country's greatest resource, and programs such as SCHIP provide us with some of the tools families need to raise healthy, happy children," Simpson said. "Intervening early in children's lives makes a huge difference in their growth and development. Unhealthy children have difficulty concentrating and often miss school, and studies show they have more trouble learning than healthy children. SCHIP provides assistance to hard-working, low-income families to help them obtain health care for their children to ensure that our children will be ready and excited to learn. After all, these are the same children that someday will grow up to be our country's future farmers, business leaders, doctors, policymakers, and even presidents. That is why I strongly support and advocate SCHIP and will continue to work with our policymakers to see it reauthorized and signed into law." Idaho Voices for Children is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of Idaho children. Founded in 2004, the organization is focused on enhancing education, health, safety, and family economic security in Idaho. Each year IVC will award its "Children's Champion" award to an individual who has been an outstanding advocate for Idaho's children and families.

For more information on IVC, visit www.idahovoices.org.

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