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From Page:
8
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180 Auditor finds abuse in the CHIP program

Editor:

The Texas State Auditor has issued a report highly critical of the administration of the Children's Health Insurance Program by the Health and Human Services Commission.

The complete report is available at <http://www.sao.state.tx.us/reports/2004/04-042.pdf>. It finds in excess of \$20 million in unnecessary or excessive payments by the commission out of CHIP funds to the contractor.

This is precisely why the calls to simply throw more money at government programs flunks the common-sense test. Programs like CHIP must be scrubbed for sound management, fiscal effi-

ciency, and effectiveness long before we entertain the idea of simply giving them millions more.

Solutions such as deregulating health insurance, thus making it more affordable for employers to offer to employees, is the real answer to our uninsured crisis in Texas.

As president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the state's largest and oldest independent free-market research institute focusing on Texas' public policy challenges, I urge the public to get involved.

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