

Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance ♦ Astor Services for Children & Families ♦ Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network ♦ Caribbean Women's Health Association ♦ Center for Children's Initiatives ♦ Child and Family Services of Erie County ♦ Children's Aid Society ♦ Children's Defense Fund NY ♦ Children's Health Fund ♦ Citizens' Committee for Children of NY ♦ Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies ♦ Docs for Tots ♦ Early Care and Learning Council ♦ Families Together in New York State ♦ Families Together in the North Country ♦ Families Together in the Southern Tier ♦ Family Resource Network, Inc. ♦ Hillside Family of Agencies ♦ Institute for Community Living ♦ Jewish Child Caring Association ♦ Liberty Resources ♦ Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network ♦ Maternal-Infant Services Network ♦ MercyFirst ♦ Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network ♦ New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center ♦ New York State Association for Infant Mental Health ♦ New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health ♦ North Country Prenatal Perinatal Council ♦ Northern Rivers ♦ REACH CNY, Inc. ♦ Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy ♦ SKIP of New York ♦ The Children's Agenda ♦ Westchester Children's Association ♦ YOUTH POWER!

August 9, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

Thank you for your service to the people of New York State.

We, child advocates from across New York State, urge you to **extend funding for the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as soon as possible**, well before it expires on September 30, 2017.

Specifically, we urge you to:

1. Extend CHIP funding through 2022;
2. Extend the current maintenance of effort provision for three additional years, through 2022, to ensure a stable source of health care coverage for children; and
3. Extend the current federal CHIP matching rate through 2022 while the MOE is in place.

New York's CHIP program, Child Health Plus (CHP), covers over **344,000 children** (June 2017, NYS DOH). CHP stands on the shoulders of Medicaid by providing high-quality, comprehensive coverage to children ineligible for Medicaid because of family income that is just above the Medicaid level. CHP covers children in working families without access to affordable insurance.

Evidence affirms that children, families and communities benefit when children have health coverage that allows them to access needed care. Children with CHP coverage are more likely to have a usual source of care, including dental care, and more likely to have had a well-child visit in the past year relative to children without insurance.

It is vitally important that Congress extend CHIP funding now, so that children are not left uncovered and state administrators have the time they need to ensure continuity of coverage. It is also essential that the extension be for several years and that Members of Congress do not destabilize families and states with the unpredictability of short-term extensions.

CHIP has always had bipartisan support, from its inception in 1997 through today. We are eager to support your efforts to protect New York's children by extending CHIP funding, the MOE, and the current match rate through 2022.

Sincerely,

Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance
Astor Services for Children & Families
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network
Caribbean Women's Health Association
Center for Children's Initiatives
Child and Family Services of Erie County
Children's Aid Society
Children's Defense Fund NY
Children's Health Fund
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
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