

New York Groups Urge CHIP Extension

October 6, 2017

Dear New York State Congressional Delegation:

We strongly urge Congress to renew federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) without delay. Congress must act before New York runs out of money for its CHIP program, known as Child Health Plus (CHP), and is forced to take steps that would harm our children and families. The undersigned represent child and health advocates from across the state of New York and we are deeply concerned that the deadline for funding CHIP has now expired.

Specifically, we urge you to extend:

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

Great strides have been made in achieving historically high rates of children's health coverage rates both nationally and in New York largely due to bipartisan support for CHIP. New York can be proud that nearly 98 percent of our children have health insurance thanks in large part to Medicaid and CHIP.

According to the New York State Department of Health, CHP covers almost **350,000 children**. CHP stands on the shoulders of Medicaid by providing high-quality, comprehensive coverage to uninsured children who are not eligible for Medicaid but lack affordable access to private insurance. Evidence demonstrates that CHP is effective: children with 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 compared to children without insurance. They have access to doctor-recommended screenings to ensure they stay healthy and enter school ready to learn.

New York, like all states, is in urgent need of continued, stable, long-term funding for CHIP. No family should face the loss of coverage for their children because Congress failed to act. Congress can and must extend CHIP now, before any child loses health insurance coverage.

Sincerely,

Arab American Family Support Center
Association for Community Living
Bronx Community Health Network, Inc.
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled
Caring for Us Indivisible

(continued)

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Center for Children's Initiatives
Center for Elder Law & Justice
Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Children's Aid
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Children's MAGIC US
Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens' Committee for Children
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Community Service Society of New York
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
Day Care Council of New York
Dental Hygienists' Association of the State of New York
Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse Inc.
Docs for Tots
Early Care & Learning Council
Families Together in New York State
Fort Greene Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)
Graham Windham
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
Health Care for All New York
Healthcare Education Project
HRHCare Community Health
Hudson Center for Health Equity and Quality
Hunger Solutions New York
JCCA
Justice & Peace Resource Center
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York
Leake and Watts Services, Inc.
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL)
Make the Road New York
Medicaid Matters New York
Medical Society of the State of New York
Mekong
Mental Health Association of NYS
MercyFirst
Metro New York Health Care for All
MISN
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
New York State Association for the Education of Young Children
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
New York State Council of Churches
New York State Network for Youth Success

New York State Oral Health Coalition
New York Zero-to-Three Network
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network
Northern Rivers Family of Services
NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health
NYS Kinship Navigator
NYU College of Dentistry, Dental Hygiene Programs
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP) Program
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services
Southern Tier Independence Center
The Children's Agenda
The Children's Village
The Healthcare Consortium
Westchester Children's Association
Women's City Club of New York
Young Invincibles