

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

As leading national, state, tribal, and local organizations concerned about the health and well-being of America's children and pregnant women, we are writing to urge you to enact a permanent extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through the CARING for Kids Act or the Children's Health Insurance Program Permanency (CHIPP) Act. Both bills would protect the health security and well-being of the 10 million children and pregnant women currently enrolled in CHIP while taking the long overdue and necessary step of finally making CHIP permanent, like every other public health insurance program, including Medicare and Medicaid. Enacting legislation to make CHIP permanent ensures that the children and pregnant women that receive health insurance through the popular and successful Children's Health Insurance Program will never again worry about their coverage expiring mid-year or mid-treatment.

As you know, CHIP funding expired on September 30, 2017 and CHIP was not fully funded again until January 2018. For months states made contingency plans for CHIP's possible demise, advocates and lawmakers worked to extend funding, and families across the country received disenrollment notices as they faced an uncertain future about their children's health care. Never again should a family feel the fear and worry of whether or not their child will have health coverage. Enactment of legislation to make CHIP permanent would ensure that the health coverage of children is no longer subjected to arbitrary deadlines and funding cliffs that lead to chaos, distress, and anxiety for families all across this country.

For almost 25 years, CHIP has been an essential source of children's coverage, ensuring access to high-quality, affordable, pediatric-appropriate health care for children in working families whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private health insurance on their own. CHIP has played a critical role in reducing the number of uninsured children by more than 68 percent, from an uninsurance rate of nearly 15 percent in 1997 to less than five percent in 2016, while improving health outcomes and access to care for children and pregnant women. CHIP, together with Medicaid, plays a particularly important role for children of color: in 2019 more than half of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, multi-racial, and Hispanic children relied on Medicaid and CHIP as their source of health coverage. Since 2017, uninsurance rates for children have risen a full percentage point to 5.7 percent. Around 726,000 children lost coverage between 2016 and 2019 – even before our country began facing a devastating pandemic that has left more than 28 million Americans infected with COVID-19, including more than 3 million children. As we work to reverse course and get all eligible children covered, making CHIP permanent is critical so families, medical providers, and governors can depend on it to always be there.

By making CHIP permanent, the recurrent funding dilemma would be eliminated, allowing states to develop their programs in ways that best serve children and families. Finally, the public health emergency that has devastated our nation for more than a year should make clear that comprehensive, affordable health coverage that is reliable is essential. Ensuring CHIP's future as the critical part of the health insurance system for children that it is must be a priority. To never again wonder about CHIP's future would allow lawmakers, federal and state health departments, advocates, pediatricians, and other providers to be entirely focused and attentive to the emergencies at hand – ending the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing our nation's shameful maternal and infant mortality crises, and eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity. Swift passage of legislation to make CHIP permanent will ensure that never again will we divert any attention away from improving child and maternal health outcomes to prepare for contingency planning for the possible temporary expiration or end of CHIP.

Permanent funding for CHIP must be passed once and for all.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

First Focus Campaign for Children
AASA, The School Superintendents
Association
Academic Pediatric Association
ACCSES
Alan M Vietze LCSW

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Pediatric
Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS)
American Association on Health and
Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
Amy Requa Health Consulting, Inc.
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community
Health Organizations
Association of Asian Pacific Community
Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Children's Residential
Centers (ACRC)
Association of Maternal & Child Health
Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric
Department Chairs
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Catholic Health Association of the United
States
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Health Fund
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Clinical Social Work Association
Commissioned Officers Association of the
U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA).
CommonSpirit Health
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the
Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
CSH

Dental Trade Alliance
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest
School of Medicine
Families USA
Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Voices
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and
Social Justice
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc
Guttmacher Institute
HealthConnect One
HEAR US Inc.
Heartspring
Hemophilia Federation of America
High Flight Arts and Letters
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Lakeshore Foundation
Leading for Kids
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
March of Dimes
Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA)
Medicaid-Medicare-CHIP Services Dental
Association
MomsRising
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of
the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's
Behavioral Health
National Association of Councils on
Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of State Directors of
Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center on Adoption and
Permanency
National Children's Campaign

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Crittenton
National Dental Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National League for Nursing
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National WIC Association
Nemours Children's Health System
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Non Profit Evolution
Nuu-Muu
Parents as Teachers
Partnership for America's Children
Pediatric Policy Council
Prevent Blindness

Protect Our Care
Provincial Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Pynn & Associates
Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association
RESULTS
SchoolHouse Connection
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of St. Joseph TOSF
Society for Pediatric Research
SocioEnergetics Foundation
Spina Bifida Association
The Arc of the United States
The Children's Advocacy Institute
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Trinity Lutheran Church
UndocuBlack Network
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way of Ventura County
United Way Worldwide
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
ZERO TO THREE

State/Local Organizations

Alabama

American Lung Association in Alabama

Alaska

Alaska Dental Society
American Lung Association in Alaska

Arizona

American Lung Association in Arizona
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers for the Child Welfare League of America
Virtual Hill Day event on May 12th
Arizona Dental Association

Arizona (cont.)

Arizona women's recovery center
Arizona's Children Association
RY Services
Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
Valley of the Sun United Way
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition

Arkansas

American Lung Association in Arkansas
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas State Dental Association

California

American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
American Lung Association in California
California Chapter 1, AAP
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
California School Nurses Organization
California WIC Association
Children Now
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Constituent
Hathaway Sycamores
L.A. Care Health Plan
Orange County United Way

Colorado

AAP Colorado
American Lung Association in Colorado
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Dental Association
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Raise Colorado

Connecticut

American Lung Association in Connecticut
Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter
United Way of Western Connecticut
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Delaware

American Lung Association in Delaware
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
KIDS COUNT in Delaware

District of Columbia

American Lung Association in District of Columbia
District of Columbia Dental Society
Rebuilding Independence My Style

Florida

American Children's Campaign
American Lung Association in Florida
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Dental Association
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Policy Institute
Florida's Children First
Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.
Holy Cross Health
Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, FL
LULAC Florida Council 7258

Georgia

American Lung Association in Georgia
Georgia Dental Association
Prevent Blindness Georgia

Hawaii

American Academy of Pediatrics, HI Chapter
American Lung Association in Hawaii
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Idaho

American Lung Association in Idaho

Illinois

American Lung Association in Illinois
Children's Home & Aid
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Jewish Federation of Chicago

Indiana

American Lung Association in Indiana
Indiana United Ways
MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.)

Iowa

American Lung Association in Iowa
CEO Orchard Place
Common Good Iowa
Iowa Dental Association
Polk & Dallas County WIC - Iowa
Prevent Blindness Iowa
Seasons Center for Behavioral Health
Washington County Public Health

Kansas

American Lung Association in Kansas
Kansas Action for Children
United Way of the Flint Hills

Kentucky

American Lung Association in Kentucky
Kentucky Chapter of the AAP
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kentucky Youth Advocates

Louisiana

American Lung Association in Louisiana
Kingsley House
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Maine

American Lung Association in Maine
Community Concepts, Inc
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Children's Alliance

Maine (cont.)

Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Maine Equal Justice
Opportunity Enterprises Incorporated

Maryland

Addiction Connections Resource
American Lung Association in Maryland
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland State Dental Association

Massachusetts

American Lung Association in Massachusetts
Children's Vision Massachusetts
Health Care For All - Massachusetts
Health Law Advocates

Michigan

American Lung Association in Michigan
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan's Children
United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region
United Way of Washtenaw County

Minnesota

American Lung Association in Minnesota

Mississippi

American Lung Association in Mississippi
Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri

American Lung Association in Missouri
Howell County Health Department
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Missouri Dental Association
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

Montana

American Lung Association in Montana
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Nebraska

American Lung Association in Nebraska
Family Health Services-WIC Program
Nebraska Chapter AAP
Nebraska WIC Association

Nevada

American Lung Association in Nevada
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Hampshire

American Lung Association in New Hampshire
New Hampshire Dental Association
NHAAP

New Jersey

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
American Lung Association in New Jersey
NewBridge Services
NJ Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
United Way of Central Jersey

New Mexico

American Lung Association in New Mexico
New Mexico Dental Association
New Mexico Pediatric Society
New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

AAP NY Chapter 2
AAP NY Chapter 3
American Academy of Pediatrics: New York Chapter 1
American Lung Association in New York
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Children's Aid
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY

New York (cont.)

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Metro New York Health Care for All
NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council
The Children's Agenda
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
Vanderheyden
YWCA-GCR, Inc.

North Carolina

American Lung Association in North Carolina
Carolina Jews for Justice
Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice
NC Child
NC Pediatric Society
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Prevent Blindness North Carolina

North Dakota

American Lung Association in North Dakota
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio

American Lung Association in Ohio
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
The Center for Closing the Health Gap
United Way of Greater Stark County

Oklahoma

American Lung Association in Oklahoma
Oklahoma Dental Association

Oregon

American Lung Association in Oregon
CareOregon
Health Share of Oregon
Oregon Dental Association
Oregon Pediatric Society
Our Children Oregon

Pennsylvania

Allies for Children
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Geisinger Health Plan
Maternal and Child Health Consortium-MCHC
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
PA Coalition for Oral Health
Pennsylvania Dental Association
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
The Foundation for Delaware County, PA
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way of Wyoming Valley

Puerto Rico

PRAAP CHAPTER

Rhode Island

American Lung Association in Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

American Lung Association in South Carolina
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of the Midlands

South Dakota

American Lung Association in South Dakota
SD Dental Association

Tennessee

American Lung Association in Tennessee
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

American Lung Association in Texas
Texas Dental Association
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Ways of Texas
Voices for Children of San Antonio
Community Research Center

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter
American Lung Association in Utah
Utah Dental Association

Vermont

AAPVT Chapter
American Lung Association in Vermont
Vermont State Dental Society

Virginia

American Lung Association in Virginia
Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area
Rappahannock United Way
Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Virginia Hemophilia Foundation
Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

American Lung Association in Washington
International Community Health Services
Northwest Harvest
United Way of Pierce County
Washington State Academy of Pediatric Dentists
Washington State Dental Association

West Virginia

American Lung Association in West Virginia

Think Kids

West Virginia Council of Churches

West Virginia Dental Association

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin

American Lung Association in Wisconsin

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin

United Way of Door County

Wisconsin Dental Association

Wisconsin WIC Association

Wyoming

American Lung Association in Wyoming