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July 18, 2022

Dear Pennsylvania Democratic Congressional Delegation,

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is the statewide, independent, non-partisan, and non-profit child advocacy organization in the Commonwealth with a vision to ensure every child living in the state can thrive and reach their full potential. Our policy agenda covers the span of perinatal and children's health care, early care and education, child welfare, and K-12 education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the health of children and their families. This impact is amplified by the patchwork of state laws and regulations on perinatal and children's health insurance, as well as impending changes that will come with the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and beyond. Current guidelines require all states to maintain coverage for current enrollees in the Medicaid program, and because of the American Rescue Plan Act, Pennsylvania moms can maintain enrollment in Medicaid for 12 months after the birth of their child. Without the inclusion of program continuation and federal regulation for eligibility and enrollment in Medicaid in the next reconciliation package, our health care system will continue to fail children and birthing people in Pennsylvania and across the United States.

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is advocating for the following components of the previous reconciliation legislation to be included in the final version of a bill package to ensure the health and well-being for children and families in the years to come:

- Improvements to children's health care programs, including a permanent extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and required 12 months of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid.
- Making permanent and mandatory the state Medicaid requirement to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility to postpartum women and grant funding for programs that address social determinants of health in maternal and postpartum health.
- Extending enhanced tax credits for marketplace insurance to keep health coverage affordable for families.

As congressional leaders continue to negotiate a final bill package, please make your voice heard to your colleagues and conference leadership on the importance of the health policy provisions described above. Thank you for your dedication to children and families in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari King".

Kari King
President & CEO