

July 22, 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
2020 Mom
AASA, The School Superintendents
Association
Academic Pediatric Association
ACCSES
African American Health Alliance

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children,
Youth & Families
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 College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Physical Therapy Association
Amy Requa Health Consulting, Inc.
Assistive Technology Law Center
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 Rights
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Clinical Social Work Association
Coalition on Human Needs

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
Covering Kentucky Kids And Families
CSH
Dental Trade Alliance
Division for Early Childhood of the Council
for Exceptional Children (DEC)
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
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators
Association (ITCA)
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
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
Mom Congress
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 Black Child Development Institute
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center on Adoption and
Permanency
National Child Care Association
National Children's Campaign
National Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Crittenton
National Dental Association
National Diaper Bank Network
National Family Planning & Reproductive
Health Association
National Family Support Network
National Health Law Program
National Healthy Start Association
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National League for Nursing
National Network for Arab American
Communities (NNAAC)
National Organization for Women
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Prevention Science Coalition to
Improve Lives
National PTA
National Resource Center on Domestic
Violence

National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Native Women Lead
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 Cave Institute
The Children's Advocacy Institute
The National Alliance to Advance
Adolescent Health
UndocuBlack Network
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way of Ventura County
United Way Worldwide
Voice for Adoption
Within Reach Consulting
ZERO TO THREE

State/Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics
American Lung Association in Alabama
Children First

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 Dental Hygienists' Association
Arizona women's recovery center
Arizona's Children Association
Child and Family Resources
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

African American Wellness Center for Children & Families
American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
American Lung Association in California

California (cont.)

California Chapter 1, AAP
California School Nurses Organization
California WIC Association
Children Now
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Constituent
First 5 Del Norte
Hathaway Sycamores
L.A. Care Health Plan
Orange County United Way
Postpartum Health Alliance
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

Colorado

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

Connecticut

American Lung Association in Connecticut
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter
The Riverfront Children's Center, Inc.
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
Georgians for a Healthy Future
Prevent Blindness Georgia
United Way of Greater Atlanta

Hawaii

AlohaCare
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter
American Lung Association in Hawaii
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!
Parents And Children Together

Idaho

American Lung Association in Idaho

Illinois

American Lung Association in Illinois
Chicago Foundation for Women
Children's Home & Aid
Erikson Institute

Illinois (cont.)

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
The Center for Youth and Family Solutions
United Way of Lake County

Indiana

American Lung Association in Indiana
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana
Indiana United Ways
MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.)

Iowa

American Lung Association in Iowa
CEO Orchard Place
Common Good Iowa
IANAPNAP
Iowa Chapter NAPNAP
Iowa Dental Association
Polk & Dallas County WIC - Iowa
Prevent Blindness Iowa
Seasons Center for Behavioral Health
United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties, Inc.
Washington County Public Health

Kansas

American Lung Association in Kansas
Community Care Network of Kansas
Families Together Inc./Family to Family Health Center
KanCare Advocates Network
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
The Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
United Way of the Flint Hills

Kentucky

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

Louisiana

American Lung Association in Louisiana
Kingsley House
Louisiana Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
St. John United Way
United Way of Southwest Louisiana, Inc.

Maine

American Lung Association in Maine
Community Concepts, Inc
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Consumers for Affordable Health
Care
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Public Health Association
Opportunity Enterprises Incorporated

Maryland

Addiction Connections Resource
American Lung Association in Maryland
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Maryland National Organization for Women
Maryland State Dental Association
Montgomery County Federation of Families
for Children's Mental Health
The Parents' Place of MD

Massachusetts

18 Degrees
American Lung Association in
Massachusetts

Massachusetts (cont.)

Children's Vision Massachusetts
Health Care For All - Massachusetts
Health Law Advocates
MassKids
MCAAP

Michigan

Advocates for Benzie County
American Lung Association in Michigan
Capital Area United Way
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child
Health
Michigan Family Voices
Michigan's Children
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way of the Battle Creek and
Kalamazoo Region
United Way of Washtenaw County
Wayne RESA

Minnesota

American Lung Association in Minnesota
LFR Associates

Mississippi

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

Missouri

A Red Circle
American Lung Association in Missouri
Bilingual International Assistant Services
Children's Mercy Kansas City
Howell County Health Department
Kids Win Missouri
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Missouri Dental Association
St. Louis Children's Hospital
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
Disability Rights Nebraska
Family Health Services-WIC Program
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Chapter AAP
Nebraska WIC Association
Voices for Children in Nebraska

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
Family Voices NJ
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Parents Caucus, Inc
New Jersey Policy Perspective
NewBridge Services
NJ Association of Mental Health and
Addiction Agencies, Inc.
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
United Way of Central Jersey
United Way of Northern NJ

New Mexico

American Lung Association in New Mexico
Native American Disability Law Center
New Mexico Dental Association

New Mexico (cont.)

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
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network
Center for Independence of the Disabled,
NY
Children's Aid
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY
Coalition for Asian American Children and
Families
MercyFirst
Metro New York Health Care for All
New York Chapter 2 of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
NORTH COUNTRY PRENATAL/PERINATAL
COUNCIL, INC
NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral
Health
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council
The Children's Agenda
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
Vanderheyden
Westchester Children's Association
YWCA-GCR, Inc.

North Carolina

American Lung Association in North
Carolina
Carolina Jews for Justice
Child Care Services Association
Epilepsy Alliance North Carolina
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest
School of Medicine

North Carolina (cont.)

Goldsboro Pediatrics
Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice
NC Child
NC Pediatric Society
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Pisgah Legal Services
Prevent Blindness North Carolina
United Way of North Carolina

North Dakota

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

Ohio

American Lung Association in Ohio
Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Ohio Federation of Teachers
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
SEM Food Pantry
The Center for Closing the Health Gap
The Ohio Council of Churches
United Way of Greater Stark County

Oklahoma

American Lung Association in Oklahoma
Oklahoma Dental Association
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oregon

American Lung Association in Oregon
CareOregon
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Health Share of Oregon
Oregon Dental Association
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
Our Children Oregon

Pennsylvania

AIDS Resource
Allies for Children
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Geisinger Health Plan
HIAS PA
Maternal and Child Health Consortium-
MCHC
PA Catholic Health Association
PA Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
PA Coalition for Oral Health
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
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
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank

Puerto Rico

PRAAP CHAPTER

Rhode Island

American Lung Association in Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

American Lung Association in South
Carolina
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Pickens County
United Way of the Midlands

South Dakota

American Lung Association in South Dakota
SD Dental Association
Washington County Coalition for Children

Tennessee

American Lung Association in Tennessee
Tennessee Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Justice Center
United Way of Benton County

Texas

American Lung Association in Texas
Community Health Choice
Every Texan
Houston Women March On
Prevent Blindness Texas
Texas Dental Association
Texas Diaper Bank
Texas Kids Can't Wait
Trinity Lutheran Church
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of Southern Cameron County
United Ways of Texas
UUFHCT
Voices for Children of San Antonio
Community Research Center

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah
Chapter
American Lung Association in Utah
Association for Utah Community Health
Childrens Service Society of Utah
United Way of Salt Lake
Utah Dental Association
Utah Health Policy Project
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont

AAPVT Chapter
American Lung Association in Vermont
United Ways of Vermont
Vermont State Dental Society
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia

American Lung Association in Virginia
Children's Health Investment Program, Inc.
Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU
Cornerstones
Fairlington Preschool
Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area
Mental Health America of Virginia
Rappahannock United Way
Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Hemophilia Foundation
Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

American Lung Association in Washington
Diaper Bank of Skagit County
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

Great Rivers United Way

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin

United Way of Door County

United Way of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council of Churches

Wisconsin Dental Association

Wisconsin WIC Association

Wyoming

American Lung Association in Wyoming

Wyoming Community Foundation