



September 15, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Wyden and Upton, Senator Hatch, and Representative Waxman,

On behalf of the Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of safety-net providers, counties, labor and health plans – we would like to express our support for ensuring continued funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through fiscal year (FY) 2019, before the conclusion of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. We believe it is imperative to take action this year to ensure that children, adolescents, and pregnant women are not put at risk of losing coverage as a result of a delay in CHIP funding authorization until we approach the end of the current expiration date at the end of FY 2015.

As organizations whose members provide health care to underserved populations, we see first-hand the difference that stable, affordable health coverage makes for children, adolescents, pregnant women, and their families. CHIP serves as a lifeline for many lower-income families that do not qualify for Medicaid and cannot afford private coverage. Expiration of the program would be an extraordinary detriment to the more than 10 million children and adolescents, along with 370,000 pregnant women, who will be enrolled in CHIP during FY 2015. Further, the GAO estimates that if CHIP is not extended, nearly two million children currently enrolled in CHIP – almost 20 percent – could become uninsured due to an unintended consequence in the Affordable Care Act, known as the “family glitch.” This provision excludes employer-sponsored family coverage from affordability requirements, yet leaves these same families ineligible for premium assistance. It is unacceptable to knowingly leave these children, adolescents, and pregnant women without access to care by allowing CHIP to expire.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership and work on behalf of hardworking families who rely on CHIP for access to affordable, quality health care. We support your efforts to extend CHIP, and again respectfully request your swift action to reauthorize this program before the end of the

calendar year. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Catholic Health Association of the U.S.  
Children's Hospital Association  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Rural Health Association

cc: Sen. Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
Sen. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
Rep. John Boehner, Speaker of the House, United States House of Representatives  
Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives  
Sen. John D. Rockefeller, Chair, Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care  
Sen. Pat Roberts, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care  
Rep. Joe Pitts, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
Rep. Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health