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 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 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