



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

September 15, 2014

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

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 113th 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