

## Template Letter to Governors on CHIP

Dear Governor **[NAME]**,

On behalf of the **[STATE]** Academy of Family Physicians, which represents over **[NUMBER]** family physicians and medical students across the state, we ask that you call on Congress to immediately pass legislation to extend Children's Health Insurance Program funding.

Since its inception in 1997, CHIP, together with Medicaid, has helped to reduce the percentage of uninsured children by a remarkable 68 percent. As employer-based dependent coverage has eroded, CHIP and Medicaid have efficiently worked together so that more than 95 percent of all children in America are currently enrolled in some form of insurance coverage. Specifically, in **[STATE]**, **[NUMBER]** children are covered by Medicaid and CHIP. In 2015, there were **[NUMBER]** uninsured children in **[STATE]**. This is the lowest number of uninsured children ever recorded. CHIP works!

As you know, CHIP funding expired on September 30th. This missed deadline has real implications for children and families in **[STATE]**. With every day that passes, **[NUMBER]** children and families face uncertainty about whether they will have access to the health care they need. Without action from Congress on CHIP funding, **[STATE]** will be forced to make drastic cuts to the program. This could mean slashing enrollment, reducing benefits, and imposing higher costs on families.

CHIP is a bipartisan success story and its unfortunate Congress is playing politics with a program essential to the well-being of our children. Family physicians play an important role in caring for children. The **[STATE]** Academy of Family Physicians respectfully asks you to stand up for the children of **[STATE]** and demand that Congress extend CHIP.

Sincerely,

**[STATE]** Academy of Family Physicians