

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On January 22, 2018, the United States Congress once again passed a short-term measure to maintain funding for the federal government, this time through February 8, 2018. While it contained a critical extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, it failed to reauthorize and fund several other key expired health care programs and policies, each of which are vital to our health care system.

This lapse in authorization and funding, coupled with the continuous enactment of short-term patches, has put in jeopardy health care services for seniors on Medicare and patients in underserved communities, resources for health care providers in rural communities, and programs aimed at training primary care physicians.

Among the programs that have been allowed to lapse or are awaiting reauthorization and funding are:

- Community Health Center Fund
- Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payment funding
- Medicare Therapy Cap Extension
- Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program
- Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- National Health Service Corps
- Physician Fee Schedule GPCI Parity Policy

The undersigned organizations call on you, as leaders of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, to ensure the inclusion of provisions that will reauthorize and fund these important programs in any government funding legislation approved on or before February 8, 2018.

These programs and policies enjoy strong bipartisan support and many have been approved for reauthorization and funding by the appropriate committees of jurisdiction, during the current Congress. The continued lack of predictable funding for these programs and policies stands to negatively impact the lives of millions of people and communities all across the nation.

We urge you to prioritize the continuation of these programs and policies and take the appropriate steps to ensure that each are reauthorized and funded as part of the next government funding bill.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy Association
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Teaching Health Centers
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Rheumatology
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Access National Network
Every Child By Two – Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization
Families USA
First Focus
HealthHIV
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
Institute for Child Success
The Jewish Federations of North America
Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health
Justice in Aging
March of Dimes
Massachusetts Medical Society
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
National Association for Addiction Professionals
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Coalition for LGBT Health

National Coalition on Health Care
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumers League
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Physicians Alliance
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
North American Primary Care Research Group
Nurse-Family Partnership
Parents as Teachers
Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Child Abuse America
Prevention Institute
Renal Physicians Association
Services Employees International Union
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
UnityPoint Health
1,000 Days