MCH Program Extensions to be Signed Into Law

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is happy to report that last evening the U.S. Senate passed legislation to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) for doctors providing Medicare services. The bill also provides a two-year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program; the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP); Community Health Centers (CHCs); and Family to Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs) – all at current funding levels. The vote was 92-8 and the bill is now headed to President Obama to be signed into law.

Together these programs provide critical investments in the health of women, children and families. AMCHP welcomes the measure of stability provided by this two-year extension. We are proud to have worked with a broad coalition of stakeholders supporting these programs and are gratified by the level of bipartisan support to include them in this legislative package. We thank each of you who answered our calls to add your voice in support of these programs and look now to build on the momentum of these extensions to set the stage for longer reauthorizations in 2017. We now turn our attention back to the regular appropriations process; advocacy for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant and other critical MCH appropriations; and continuing the fight against sequestration. Thank you again for your support throughout this process and, as always, your feedback to improve AMCHP advocacy work is appreciated and can be directed to Brent Ewig, director of policy, at bewig@amchp.org.