

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Mr. President, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As leading national, state, and local advocates concerned about the health and well-being of America's children, we are writing to thank you for all of your efforts to protect and improve health coverage for our children and to urge you to take action this year to ensure continued funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Due in no small part to your leadership, today the numbers of uninsured children stand at a record low with 93 percent of children in America enrolled in coverage they can count on. CHIP is a major part of this success story and funding for CHIP is essential if we are to continue this positive coverage trend for children. Congress must act soon to protect and stabilize the CHIP funding stream if this program is to continue to be available for the millions of children who get their coverage through CHIP.

Since its inception in 1997, CHIP has been a vital program for low-income children in working families whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private health insurance. It has helped to cut the numbers of uninsured children by an astounding 50 percent while improving health outcomes and access to care for children and pregnant women across the nation. In FY 2012, more than 8 million children relied on CHIP for their health coverage.

Not only has CHIP been successful for low-income children and families, CHIP has strong bipartisan roots and is popular among governors because it gives states significant flexibility to design their programs to meet the needs of their populations. This unique structure has helped states tackle the costs of uncompensated care while reducing the numbers of uninsured kids. It has been a winner for states and families alike. CHIP's value is also recognized by the general public, who, in poll after poll, have expressed overwhelming support for protecting CHIP and keeping this program strong.

Your action is needed soon because funding for CHIP is not permanent and is set to be cut dramatically next year. As states are adjusting to a variety of health system changes, it is essential that Congress secure CHIP's future this year so that states can operate their programs without interruption. According to CBO estimates, inaction by Congress would result in 12.7 million children enrolled in FY 2015 being at risk of losing their CHIP

coverage in 2016. And millions of these children who lose CHIP would have no other coverage option to turn to. The resulting increase in the rate of uninsurance would be an enormous step backwards for children in every state.

Congress must act soon if children are to be protected. Inaction by Congress would mean a total reversal of fortune for the millions of children who use CHIP. As you set your priorities for the coming year we urge you to make the continuation of CHIP an important priority. We know that there are many pressing issues on the congressional agenda. We hope you agree that children's health must be at the top of the list.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

- | | |
|--|--|
| First Focus | Association of Clinicians for the Underserved |
| 9to5, National Association of Working Women | Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs |
| AASA: The School Superintendents Association | Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America |
| African American Health Alliance | Autism Speaks |
| AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families | Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) |
| Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics | Children's Defense Fund |
| Alliance for a Just Society | Children's Dental Health Project |
| Alliance for Children and Families | Children's Health Fund |
| America's Essential Hospitals | Children's Hospital Association |
| America's Promise Alliance | Coalition for Community Schools |
| American Academy of Pediatrics | Coalition on Human Needs |
| American College of Cardiology | Community Action Partnership |
| American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists | Community Catalyst |
| American Heart Association | Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders |
| American Lung Association | Dignity Health |
| American Public Health Association | Direct Care Alliance |
| American School Counselor Association | Doctors for America |
| American Thoracic Society | Easter Seals |
| Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum | Enroll America |
| Asian Americans Advancing Justice AAJC | Families USA |
| Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations | Foster Family-Based Treatment Association |
| | LEAnet, a National Network of Local Education Agencies |
| | March of Dimes |

MomsRising
 National Alliance of Black School Educators
 National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
 National Association of School Nurses
 National Association of Secondary School Principals
 National Center for Lesbian Rights
 National Center for Transgender Equality
 National Council of La Raza
 National Education Association
 National Head Start Association
 National Health Law Program
 National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
 National Physicians Alliance
 National PTA
 Nemours
 Nurse-Family Partnership
 PICO National Network
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America
 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
 RESULTS: Power to End Poverty
 Save the Children
 School Social Work Association of America
 School-Based Health Alliance
 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
 The Children's Partnership
 The Every Child Matters Education Fund
 The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
 Trust for America's Health
 United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
 United Way Worldwide

ZERO TO THREE

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics
 Family Voices of Alabama

Alaska

American Academy of Pediatrics - Alaska Chapter
 Kenai Peninsula United Way
 United Way of Anchorage

Arizona

Arizona Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
 Asian Pacific Community in Action
 Children's Action Alliance
 Valley of the Sun United Way

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
 Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California

Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
 Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
 Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action
 California Academy of Family Physicians
 California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
 California Coverage & Health Initiatives
 California Medical Association

California School-Based Health Alliance
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund-California
Children's Health Initiative of Orange
County
City of Long Beach Department of Health
and Human Services
Clinica Sierra Vista
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of
Los Angeles
Community Health Partnership
Faith in Community
Inland Congregations United for Change
(ICUC)
Insure the Uninsured Project
LA Voice
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Maternal and Child Health Access
National Immigration Law Center
PICO California
Robert Gish
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
Samoan National Nurses Association
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
United Ways of California

Colorado

Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Together Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Association for Human
Services
Connecticut Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Connecticut Voices for Children

Delaware

Delaware Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
United Way of Delaware

District of Columbia

American Academy of Pediatrics, District of
Columbia Chapter

Florida

Florida Chapter of American Academy of
Pediatrics
FOCUS Orlando
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
Miami Cerebral Palsy Residential Services,
Inc.
PICO United Florida
United Way of Broward County
United Way of Florida
United Way of Miami-Dade
United Way of Northeast Florida
United Way of Pasco County
United Way Suncoast

Georgia

American Academy of Pediatrics-Georgia
Chapter
Center for Pan Asian Community Services,
Inc.
Council of Administrators of Special
Education

Hawaii

Aloha United Way
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii
Chapter Inc.
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Hawaii
Jewish Community Services
KEY Project
Partners in Development Foundation

Idaho

American Academy of Pediatrics -- Idaho Chapter

Illinois

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Healthy Schools Campaign

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Oral Health America

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

United Way

Indiana

Family Voices Indiana

Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Iowa

Child and Family Policy Center

Iowa Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

United Way of Wyandotte County

Kentucky

4-C

Boone County Success By 6

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

Kentucky Youth Advocates

KY Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Metro United Way

United Way of Central Kentucky

United Way of Eastern KY

United Way of Franklin County

United Way of Henderson County

United Way of Kentucky

United Way of Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati

United Way of Paducah-McCracken County

United Way of Southern Kentucky

United Way of the Coalfield

Louisiana

MQVN Community Development Corp.

Maine

Consumers for Affordable Health Care Day One

Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Maine Children's Allinace

Maine Equal Justice Partners

Maine Parent Federation, Inc.

New England Consortium Regional Poverty Reduction Initiative

Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

American Association on Health and Disability

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Healthy Teen Network

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans

Public Justice Center

Massachusetts

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Boston Children's Hospital

Children's Health Access Coalition

Health Care For All - Massachusetts

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Prevent Blindness, NE Region

The Health Foundation of Central
Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics

United Interfaith Action of Southeastern
Massachusetts

United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton,
Inc.

Michigan

Center for Civil Justice

Michigan Chapter American Academy of
Pediatrics

Michigan Consumers for Healthcare
Tender Touch

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Minnesota

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Immunization Action Coalition

Minnesota Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics

Mississippi

Mississippi Center for Justice

Missouri

Area Community Health Emissaries

Communities Creating Opportunity

Missouri Chapter American Academy of
Pediatrics

United Way of Greater Kansas City

Montana

American Academy of Pediatrics, Montana
Chapter

Greater Gallatin United Way, Inc.

Montana Human Rights Network

The Arc Montana

Nebraska

Center for Rural Affairs

Nebraska Appleseed

Nebraska Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics

Voices for Children in Nebraska

Nevada

ACTIONN

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Kids Count

New Hampshire Pediatric Society (NHPS)

New Hampshire Voices for Health

YWCA of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Archway Programs, Inc.

Camden Area Health Education Center
(AHEC)

Camden Churches Organized For People

Cape Atlantic Integrated Network for Kids

Cape Counseling Services, Inc.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

Center For Family Services

CGS Family Partnership, Inc.

Collier Youth Services

CWA Local 1081

Family & Children's Services

Family Service Association

Family Voices of New Jersey

Freehold Area Open Door, Inc.

Health Professionals and Allied Employees

Love In the Name of Christ

Lunch Break

Monmouth Cares

New Jersey Association of Mental Health
and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Jersey Policy Perspective

Ocean Partnership for Children
PICO New Jersey
Richard Hall CMHC
Robins' Nest Inc.
Roselle Day Care Center
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Seashore Family Services of New Jersey
South Jersey NOW, the Alice Paul Chapter
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
The Salvation Army Red Bank Corps
The United Way of Greater Union County
United Way of Monmouth County
Vantage Health System, Inc

New Mexico

Family Voices
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Pediatric Society
New Mexico Voices for Children
NM Comunidades en Accion y de Fe
(CAFe)

New York

Adirondack Health Institute
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Chapter 1
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Chapter 3
Bleeding Disorders Association of
Northeastern New York, Inc.
Bleeding Disorders Association of the
Southern Tier, Inc. (BDAST)
Center for Children's Initiatives
Center for Independence of the Disabled
Central New York Alliance for Retired
Americans
Chautauqua County Association for the
Education of Young Children

Children Awaiting Parents
Citizen Action of New York
Community Service Society of New York
Family Planning Advocates of New York
State
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Fund for the Advancement of Social
Services
Health Care For All New York Coalition
Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.
Larry Brown Associates
Liberty Resources, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of Mid and Northern
New York, Inc.
Make the Road New York
Medicaid Matters New York
Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network or
SCNY, Inc.
NAMI Huntington
NCJW of New York State
New York Blood Center
New York City Hemophilia Chapter
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York Legal Assistance Group
New York State Bleeding Disorders
Coalition
New York State Dental Association
New Yorkers for Accessible Health
Coverage
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Singles Mothers in Action
SSWA
St. Catherine's Center for Children
The Children's Agenda
United Neighborhood Houses
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
United Way of Greater Rochester
United Way of Seneca County

Westchester Children's Association
Women's City Club of New York
Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of
Social Work

North Carolina

AccessCare
Children's Mental Health Network
North Carolina Pediatric Society
North Carolina School Community Health
Alliance
TopDog Clinic-Ashe County School Based
Health Center
Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)

North Dakota

North Dakota American Academy of
Pediatrics
United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand
Forks & Area

Ohio

Asian Services In Action
Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
NAMI of Greater Toledo
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Ohio Organizing Collaborative
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Ottawa County Help Me Grow
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Greater Toledo
United Way of Ottawa County
Voices for Ohio's Children

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
United Way of Norman, Oklahoma

Oregon

Children First for Oregon
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon Poison Center
United Way of Lane County

Pennsylvania

Allies for Children
Brandywine Health Foundation
Kids Smiles
Kids With Food Allergies
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Pennsylvania Association of Community
Health Centers
Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association
Pennsylvania Chapter American Academy of
Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pocono Family YMCA
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Reading Risk Reduction
Rehabilitation and Community Providers
Association
United Way of Beaver County
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and
Southern New Jersey
United Way of York County, Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
WARM Center

South Carolina

MARYS House
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
The Parenting Place
United Way Association of South Carolina
United Way of Greenville County
United Way of Pickens County
United Way of the Lowcountry
United Way of York County

South Dakota

South Dakota State Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Tennessee

Tennessee Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee Justice Center
United Way of Coffee and Moore Counties
United Way of Monroe County
United Way of Washington County
Tennessee, Inc.
United Ways of Tennessee
Youth Villages, Inc.

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Disability Rights Texas
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas
National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter
Texans Care for Children
Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Texas Dental Association
United Way of Greater Houston

United Ways of Texas

Utah

Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont

Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Vermont Family Network
Vermont Interfaith Action
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia

Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington

Children's Alliance
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia Parent Training Information, Inc.

Wisconsin

Fond du Lac Area United Way
Junior League of Eau Claire
Oshkosh Area United Way, Inc.
United Way Fox Cities
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Wyoming

UPLIFT