

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

# State of California HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



DIANA S. DOOLEY  
SECRETARY

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Aging

Child Support  
Services

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Community Services  
and Development

Developmental  
Services

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Emergency Medical  
Services Authority

Health Care Services

Managed Health Care

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Office of Law Enforcement  
Services

Office of Patient Advocate

Office of Systems Integration

Dear Mr. Chairmen and Ranking Members:

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

State Hospitals

It is essential for Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before the funding authorization ends on September 30. Since California's enactment of this program in 1997, we have valued and relied upon federal CHIP funding to provide comprehensive and affordable coverage for children and pregnant women to ensure the best possible health care outcomes for children and infants.

Statewide Health  
Planning and  
Development

More than two million children and pregnant women are served through CHIP and together with our Medicaid program, we have cut the rate of uninsured children in California from 10.3 percent in 2001 to 3.8 percent.

Renewal of federal CHIP funding, including the enhanced federal matching rate, is critical to California's ability to offer cost-effective, affordable coverage for children and pregnant women. The enhanced federal CHIP funding allows California to make significant improvements in children's health care and loss of this funding would put these gains at great risk. Extending CHIP funding will encourage health coverage stability and positive health outcomes for children, a goal we believe Congress shares. We therefore ask you to support the renewal of funding for CHIP and the continued provision of services to millions of children and families nationwide.

If you have any questions or would like more details about the importance of CHIP to California, please contact Jennifer Kent, Director, California Department of Health Care Services, by telephone at (916) 440-7400 or email at [Jennifer.Kent@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kent@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by Diana S. Dooley, Secretary

Diana S. Dooley, Secretary