

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

Community Services
and Development

Developmental
Services

Emergency Medical
Services Authority

Health Care Services

Managed Health Care

Office of Law Enforcement
Services

Office of Patient Advocate

Office of Systems Integration

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

State Hospitals

Statewide Health
Planning and
Development

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Chairmen and Ranking Members:

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Diana S. Dooley, Secretary

Diana S. Dooley, Secretary