

Children's Health Insurance

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Jeopardy and Needs Reauthorized



October 2017

Congress allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a program that provides health insurance to over nine million children across the country, to expire on September 30, 2017. While the U.S. Senate reached a bipartisan agreement on a bill to reauthorize funding for five years, the U.S. House version of the bill has no bipartisan support and includes funding cuts and structural changes to Medicaid and Medicare.

Here is what you need to know about the importance of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and negative consequences of the U.S. House version of the funding reauthorization bill:

□ Nearly 36,000 Children in Idaho are at Risk of Losing Coverage

- 35,964 Idaho children depend on CHIP for health insurance. Nearly 50 percent of all newborns, children with disabilities, and toddlers in Idaho receive coverage through CHIP, as do 100 percent of foster children in Idaho.
- CHIP helps families afford trips to the doctor, the dentist, allows children to get glasses, and ensures access to lifesaving procedures.

□ Idaho Risks Running Out of Funds by the End of the Year

- The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that 11 states will exhaust their CHIP funding between October and December, and that by March, 32 states will be completely out of CHIP funds.
- Idaho is one of the 11 states estimated to run out of money before the end of the year. Without congressional action, Idaho risks having to turn children away and ending enrollment for CHIP.

□ The U.S. House Reauthorization Bill Makes Damaging Cuts to Programs

- Unlike the Senate version, the House CHIP reauthorization bill reduces payments made to hospitals that serve low-income communities (known as DSH payments). Cutting DSH funding means that Idaho will be left with a huge bill for unpaid hospital visits.
- The House bill also increases Medicaid restrictions and Medicare premiums for high earners.

□ Children on CHIP Do Better in All Facets of Life

- Idaho kids on CHIP miss fewer days of school, get better grades, are more likely to graduate high school, and are more likely to attend college. CHIP allows children to reach their full potential and live happy, healthy lives.

TAKE ACTION — You can Help Influence the Healthcare Debate!

Make your voice heard, and demand a clean reauthorization of CHIP funding. Members of Congress need to know that children's healthcare is a top priority in Idaho. Use our online action tool to contact Idaho Members of Congress and let them know you care about the health of our kids. Mailing, emailing, calling, or sending a Tweet is quick and easy!

www.CloseTheGapIdaho.org/EmailAction/

