

# Children's Health Insurance

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



December 2017

Action Alert

Congress allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to expire in September. On December 22, 2017, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through January that only partially extends CHIP, creating continued uncertainty for families and state budgets. Congress kicked the can down the road yet again. **Take action and tell Congress to start 2018 off right. Urge your members of Congress to quickly pass a clean reauthorization of CHIP that fully funds the program for five years.**

Below are points related to the importance of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the need to pass a full five year reauthorization of the program:

### □ 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.

### □ CHIP Must Be Reauthorized and Funded for a Full 5 Years

- Congress failed Idaho's children when they allowed the program to expire in September and again when they provided only partial funding in December.
- The reauthorization should mirror the clean language that emerged from the Senate Finance agreement. Any proposal that steals funding from the Public Health Fund must be rejected.

### □ Congress Kicked the Can Down the Road Yet Again

- Anything less than fully funding CHIP not only hurts children but it is fiscally irresponsible. Partial funding does not give states the certainty they need to fund kids' health coverage and plan their budgets as they head into their new legislative sessions.
- Allowing CHIP to completely expire would mean an emergency move to Medicaid would be required, coming at an extra **\$9 million** cost to Idaho.
- States cannot rely on limited patchwork funding, and families can't afford to go without coverage for their kids. We need our leaders to do better.

### □ 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.

## TAKE ACTION — Your Voice Matters!

Make your voice heard, and demand a full five year 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 easily contact Idaho Members of Congress. Mailing, emailing, calling and/or sending a Tweet is quick and easy!

[www.ClosetheGapIdaho.org/EmailAction/](http://www.ClosetheGapIdaho.org/EmailAction/)

