

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On October 1, 2017, almost three months ago, funding lapsed for a number of health care programs critical to millions of low-income, working Americans and others who face financial challenges, including:

- the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- Community Health Centers Program (CHCs);
- Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments (DSH);
- the National Health Service Corps (NHSC);
- Maternal Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV); and
- Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program (THCGME).

Despite the bipartisan support for each of these programs their futures now hang in the balance because of Congressional inaction. Funding for these essential health care programs expired almost 80 days ago, creating confusion and needless stress for American families. Congress failed to capitalize on its latest opportunity to end this uncertainty when it passed a continuing resolution that funded the government until Dec. 22, without enacting a long-term funding solution for these programs that provide vital services to millions of Americans.

A continued delay in passing legislation to fund these programs is irresponsible and unacceptable—the negative consequences of Congressional inaction already are being felt and will be compounded in the coming weeks. While Congress expresses support for these programs, the failure to provide long-term funding sends a very different message to states and families. Confidence in the future of these vital programs cannot be restored with short-term funding

measures, and congressional delays jeopardize the long-term health and wellbeing of patients, providers, states, stakeholders, and our country at large.

While we recognize that Congress has many competing priorities, we believe no other legislation is more time-sensitive than a bill to ensure health coverage to 9 million low-income children and access to care and services for millions of others who rely on safety-net providers. These programs, which enjoy widespread support among both chambers and both political parties, should be extended in a bicameral, bipartisan fashion. There is no excuse for further delays on extending these critical, bipartisan health programs.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
America's Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Teaching Health Centers
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Dental Education Association
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Autism Society of America
Center for Public Representation
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Home and Aid

Children's Hospital Association
Community Catalyst
Doctors for America
Easterseals
Erikson Institute
Family Focus
Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Voices
First Focus
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Health Care for America Now
Healthcare Leadership Council
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Institute for Child Success
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Meharry Medical College
Mental Health America
Morehouse School of Medicine
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Coalition on Health Care
National Committee for Quality Assurance
National Consumers League
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network
National SafeCare Training and Research Center
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Nurse-Family Partnership
One Hope United
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Parent-Child Home Program
Parents as Teachers
Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC)
Physician Assistant Education Association
Primary Care Development Corporation
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools

The Children's Partnership
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The School-Based Health Alliance
United Way Worldwide