



November 2, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
The Capitol S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
The Capitol S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
The Capitol H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned members of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer (Alliance), a coalition of national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations working to promote policies to improve the diagnosis, treatment and survivorship care for children and adolescents with cancer, write regarding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

On behalf of the over 15,000 children and adolescents who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, and the almost 500,000 childhood cancer survivors living in the U.S., we write to urge you to protect the needs of these children and those who will be diagnosed in the years to come and to pass legislation that would extend the CHIP program's current level of funding for the next five years and maintain its bipartisan history.

CHIP is a bipartisan success story. The program was created in 1997 and has been championed by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle since its very beginning. CHIP covers children in working families who are not eligible for Medicaid and lack access to affordable private coverage with nearly 9 million children across the country enrolled in CHIP.

It benefits children within an age range that may not be covered by a family's employer-sponsored insurance. Additionally, CHIP plans include robust networks of pediatricians, pediatric medical and surgical subspecialists, and children's hospitals, which are especially critical for children with special health care needs including cancer.

CHIP funding expired on September 30, and this missed deadline has real implications for children and families. If Congress fails to act, states will be forced to make drastic cuts to the program, including slashing enrollment, reducing benefits, and imposing higher costs for



families. Any of these actions could reduce timely access to care for the 9 million children who rely on CHIP, which would threaten their short-term health status, as well as their potential to succeed as adults in the long-term.

We were encouraged to see CHIP legislation marked up in both the House and Senate earlier this month. Additionally, we applaud Congress for its work to come to a bipartisan consensus on policy to reauthorize CHIP funding for five years; however, we urge you to work towards an agreement on bipartisan offsets.

Our children deserve comprehensive, affordable health care that is there for them when they need it. As such, we strongly encourage Congress to take immediate action on a clean extension of CHIP funding for five years.

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers APOSW  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation  
CureSearch for Children's Cancer  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation  
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation  
The National Children's Cancer Society



CC:

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