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August 15, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education
Education Labor & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health,
Labor & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy &
Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Bldg.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Walden and
Ranking Member Pallone;

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Children's Cause for Cancer
Advocacy and the thousands of children and families we represent, we urge
your committees to expeditiously enact a five-year extension the Children's
Health Insurance Program by September 30, 2017.

The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy (Children's Cause), established in
1999, was founded to ensure the needs and perspectives of children with cancer
and survivors are integrated into federal health care, research and cancer
policy. Each year, almost 12,500 children 14 years and under are diagnosed
with cancer. Cancer remains the leading disease killer of children. Adolescents
and young adults have mortality rates that rival those of adults. By 2020, there
will be at least 500,000 childhood cancer survivors in the United States;
childhood cancer survivors experience serious long-term and late effects on
their health and well-being.

We urge policymakers to protect children and adolescents with cancer and
survivors as the Congress considers the Children's health Insurance Program
(CHIP) reauthorization. Congress needs to pass a clean five-year extension of
CHIP funding after returning from the August recess to protect care and
treatment for these vulnerable children.

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Since its inception in 1997, CHIP, together with Medicaid, has helped to bring needed services to children with cancer and survivors. With CHIP funding set to expire on September 30, 2017, Congress must stabilize the CHIP funding stream and protect the gains in children's health coverage that have resulted in more than 95 percent of all children in America being enrolled in some form of insurance coverage.

CHIP has a proven track record of providing high-quality, cost-effective coverage for children with cancer. CHIP was a bipartisan solution to a pressing problem facing American children and families when it was adopted in 1997, and its importance and impact in securing a healthy future for children with cancer has only increased.

With federal CHIP funding ending within weeks, states are facing critical decisions about the future of their CHIP programs. State budgets are already set for the coming year, and states are counting on CHIP to continue in its current form.

We urge our nation's leaders to work together to enact a five-year extension of CHIP funding to ensure treatment and care for children with cancer and survivors. This is an important opportunity for meaningful, bipartisan action for young Americans facing life threatening illness.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your continued support for our nation's children.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Dahlman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dahlman".

George Dahlman
Chief Executive Officer
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
gdahlman@childrenscause.org