



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

October 31, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I urge you to vote in support of continued funding for the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which expired on October 1. CHIP provides coverage to nearly 9 million low-income children and 370,000 pregnant women across the country, and has been a reliable source of coverage for working families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private health insurance.

We applaud the House Energy and Commerce Committee for working to extend the CHIP program and its funding for an additional five years as well as including a two-year delay in funding cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program. DSH supports hospitals in providing necessary care to low-income and uninsured children, families and individuals.

As the CHIP extension and Medicaid DSH provisions are wrapped into a substitute amendment to HR 3922 under consideration by the House Rules Committee, we urge the Committee to reconsider the cuts to the Prevention and Public Health fund. At a time when our country is dealing with the wrath of hurricanes and resulting public health issues, as well as an opioid epidemic, public health funding is more critical than ever.

We urge the full House to act quickly in support of the CHIP extension, as children are among the most vulnerable members of our society. According to Kaiser Family Foundation, 95 percent of children in the U.S. now have health coverage and these incredible gains in coverage are in part because of CHIP's role in covering millions of children.

We have made a profound difference in the lives of children, but we must act now to preserve and continue that success by extending funding for the CHIP program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and CEO