



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

September 14, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Deb Peters
*Senator – District 9
South Dakota
President, NCSL*

Chuck Truesdell
*Fiscal Analyst
Office of Budget Review
Legislative Research Commission
Kentucky
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Hatch and Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we support Senate efforts to continue funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before the end of September. As a partnership between the states and the federal government, CHIP is jointly funded by the states and the federal government and administered at the state level. NCSL supports CHIP as it provides health care coverage to countless children across the country and we believe that the federal government should continue to provide states and territories the flexibility to carry out its operation. While we understand that the exhaustion of CHIP funds will vary by state, all states need certainty that the federal government will preserve its obligation to the program.

NCSL also supports a multi-year authorization of CHIP funds. Long term certainty will provide states the ability to be flexible and innovative as they budget and plan for the future. CHIP has proven to be a successful program in the states and long-term support will allow states to work with providers in adapting innovative practices for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Haley Nicholson at 202-624-8662 or haley.nicholson@ncsl.org

Sincerely,

Joni Jenkins, State Representative
Kentucky Legislature
Co-Chair, NCSL Health and Human Services
Committee

David E. Heaton, State Representative
Iowa Legislature
Co-Chair, NCSL Health and Human Services
Committee