



March 2, 2015

The Honorable Cheryl L. Bustos
1009 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bustos:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

Without reauthorization, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates up to two million CHIP-eligible children could lose access to health coverage, while the rest would likely get less comprehensive coverage at a higher cost. To that end, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently released an analysis of data which found that in Illinois average out-of-pocket costs would be over 90 percent higher if Illinois children were enrolled in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) sold on Healthcare.gov versus CHIP.

In partnership with our local hospitals, we suggest extending the funding for CHIP for a minimum of four years and continuing the pediatric quality improvement efforts initially authorized by the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). Additionally, in order to increase participation among eligible children, we suggest providing states with a permanent option to use “express lane eligibility” to use food stamp or other safety net program data to simplify enrollment and reduce administrative burdens.

CHIP is a state-tailored program, and the sooner legislation to extend CHIP funding is passed, the more time Illinois and other states will have to put in place a comprehensive plan of coverage to meet the needs of its children. On behalf of the children of Illinois, we respectfully urge you to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before the funding expires on September 30, 2015.

Sincerely,

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President/CEO

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Chairman
DuPage County Board

Toni Preckwinkle
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Speaker
Will County Board

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Joseph Gottemoller
Chairman
McHenry County

Barbara Jeffers, MPH
Executive Director
Kane County Health Department



March 2, 2015

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1307

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Davis
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Duckworth:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Mike Bost
1440 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bost:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Bill Foster
1224 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gutierrez:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Randall M. Hultgren
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hultgren:

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Robin L. Kelly
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Daniel Lipinski
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski:

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

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The Honorable Peter Roskam
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roskam:

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
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Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

Without reauthorization, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates up to two million CHIP-eligible children could lose access to health coverage, while the rest would likely get less comprehensive coverage at a higher cost. To that end, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently released an analysis of data which found that in Illinois average out-of-pocket costs would be over 90 percent higher if Illinois children were enrolled in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) sold on Healthcare.gov versus CHIP.

In partnership with our local hospitals, we suggest extending the funding for CHIP for a minimum of four years and continuing the pediatric quality improvement efforts initially authorized by the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). Additionally, in order to increase participation among eligible children, we suggest providing states with a permanent option to use “express lane eligibility” to use food stamp or other safety net program data to simplify enrollment and reduce administrative burdens.

CHIP is a state-tailored program, and the sooner legislation to extend CHIP funding is passed, the more time Illinois and other states will have to put in place a comprehensive plan of coverage to meet the needs of its children. On behalf of the children of Illinois, we respectfully urge you to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before the funding expires on September 30, 2015.

Sincerely,

Dan Yunker
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President/CEO

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Chairman
Lake County Board

Daniel J. Cronin
Chairman
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Toni Preckwinkle
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James G. Moustis
Speaker
Will County Board

Lawrence M. Walsh
County Executive
Will County

Joseph Gottemoller
Chairman
McHenry County

Barbara Jeffers, MPH
Executive Director
Kane County Health Department



March 2, 2015

The Honorable Bob Dold
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dold:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Aaron Schock
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schock:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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Executive Director
Kane County Health Department



March 2, 2015

The Honorable John M. Shimkus
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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Kane County Health Department



March 2, 2015

The Honorable Mark Kirk
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the undersigned counties, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As you know, unless Congress acts, funding for CHIP will expire on September 30, 2015, forcing a projected ten million children and pregnant women to find other coverage. To date, there are over 1.6 million Illinois children enrolled in All Kids.

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