



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader,  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader,  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization**

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and Pelosi:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, we write to urge the inclusion of reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the continuing resolution (CR) to be considered this week.

CHIP provides health coverage to eligible children, through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs administered by states, according to federal requirements. The Alliance is concerned that authorization for federal funding of the program lapsed several months ago. As this program is funded jointly by states and the federal government, we urge Congress to reauthorize funding for this program to prevent any disruption in coverage and access to care for eligible children.

We appreciate your consideration and urge reauthorization of the CHIP program.

Sincerely,

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine

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American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons • American Gastroenterological Association  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association • American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists