

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2014

Dear Governor:

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was enacted in 1997 to provide health insurance coverage for uninsured children in low- to moderate-income families. Since that time, enrollment has grown steadily, with more than 8 million children covered through CHIP last year.

After the end of Fiscal Year 2015, under current law, there are no new funds for CHIP. As the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Congressional committees with jurisdiction over the CHIP program, we are considering whether and how the program should be extended, and what, if any, additional policy changes should be made.

Because CHIP is a federal/state partnership, it is critical for Members of Congress to receive analysis and insights on CHIP from our state partners. Therefore, we would appreciate your careful consideration on the questions below, along with any additional information you believe would be helpful as we work through the funding extension process.

1. How many individuals are served by your state's CHIP program? What are the characteristics of CHIP enrollees in your state (e.g. income, health status, demographics)?
2. What changes has your state made to its CHIP program as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act? How has the implementation of PPACA impacted the way your state administers CHIP?
3. To the extent the following information is readily available and you believe it is relevant, please describe the services and or benefits and or cost sharing currently provided in your state under CHIP that are not comparably available through your state's exchange or through the majority of employer sponsored health plans in your state.
4. Do you recommend that CHIP funding be extended? If so, for how long, and for budgeting and planning purposes, under what timeframe should Congress act upon an extension? If you do not believe CHIP funding should be extended, what coverage (if any) do you believe CHIP enrollees in your state would be able to obtain? How many children covered by CHIP do you estimate would become uninsured in the absence of CHIP?

5. In spite of the restructuring and retargeting of allotments that occurred in 2009, some CHIP funding remains unspent. Do you believe the annual allotments your state has received starting in 2009 have been sufficient and the formula is working appropriately? Do you believe there is a need for Congress to further address the issue of unspent allotments?

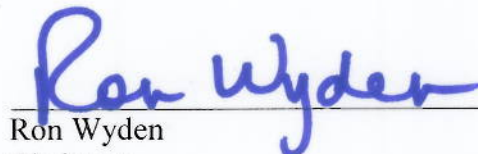
6. Over the past number of years, States have worked to reduce the number of uninsured children, and Medicaid and CHIP have been a critical component of that effort. Do you believe there are federal policies that could help states do an even better job in enrolling eligible children? What other policy changes, if any, would help improve enrollment of eligible children, reduce the number of the uninsured, and improve health outcomes for children in your state?

Thank you for reviewing this request. In the interest of informing federal policymakers, we respectfully request your response by October 31, 2014. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Josh Trent with Chairman Upton (josh.trent@mail.house.gov), Amy Hall (amy.hall@mail.house.gov) with Ranking Member Waxman, Anne Dwyer (anne_dwyer@finance.senate.gov) with Chairman Wyden, and Becky Shipp (becky_shipp@finance.senate.gov) with Ranking Member Hatch.

Sincerely,



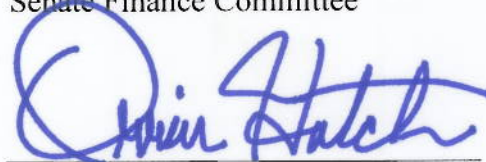
Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Orrin G. Hatch
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Senate Finance Committee