

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

January 8, 2018

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the children and families in the City of Albany I thank you for your support of the reauthorization of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP builds on Medicaid, giving families that earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid an affordable, comprehensive insurance option for their children.

CHIP was passed in 1997 to offer a comprehensive, affordable children's health insurance option to low- and modest-income families. This program has consistently had bipartisan support with lawmakers from both parties recognizing that investing in children's health is an investment in the country's future.

In California, 1.3 million children are enrolled in CHIP and gain coverage through the state's Medi-Cal program. In addition to the many children who are covered by the program, up to 30,000 low-income pregnant women rely on CHIP in California alone.

Health coverage is critical for children to get a healthy start in life. High coverage rates mean more children will have an opportunity to meet their potential. Children with special needs, those from working families, children of color and those in rural communities are among those particularly benefiting from CHIPS.

This program is a proven success; reducing the uninsured rate among children to the current rate of 4.5% from 13.9% in 1997.

Children and families need long-term certainty and stability and not temporary “fixes” nor to be pawns in the partisan struggles which have become all too common.

As you stated in your letter to Senators McConnell and Schumer, failure to reauthorize CHIP in a timely manner will put health care coverage at risk for millions of vulnerable children and pregnant women throughout the United States.

Please continue your work to protect low-income families and reauthorize CHIP without delay.

Sincerely,



Peggy McQuaid
Albany Mayor

cc. Sam Caygill, League of CA Cities, scaygill@cacities.org

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January 8, 2018

Senator Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris;

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