The oral health community stands united in calling upon Congress to take action TODAY to extend the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for at least 5 years.

CHIP is a 20-year bipartisan success story. If Congress does not act swiftly, 9 million children are at risk of losing medical AND dental coverage. Federal funding for CHIP expired on September 30, and now state programs have extremely limited time before their programs are seriously impacted — freezing enrollment for children, or even shutting down. During this particularly unstable time for our health care marketplaces, we believe Congress should make the future of the CHIP program an immediate priority.

CHIP is a critical safety net for American children who do not qualify for Medicaid, but whose families would struggle to afford private coverage, particularly dental coverage. Compared to their uninsured peers, children covered by CHIP are more likely to have a “usual source of care, including dental care,” more likely to have preventative physician and dentist visits, and less likely to report unmet medical and dental care needs.¹,²

Poor oral health has long-term effects on an individual’s life. Tooth decay remains the most common chronic condition among children and adolescents, impacting school performance and attendance. Furthermore, without access to regular dental care, poor oral health will continue to affect children into adulthood impacting all facets of their lives — from their overall health status, to their employability, earnings potential, and even military readiness. Simply put, CHIP provides children with the tools they need to succeed.

The future of CHIP is of critical importance and we encourage Congress to act quickly to renew this program. Congress has the chance to invest wisely in the next generation of children by simply extending CHIP, a program that is widely successful on the ground, endorsed by all 50 governors, and has a strong history of bipartisan Congressional support.

American Dental Association
Children’s Dental Health Project
ACHIEVA/The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh
AFL Enterprises, LLC
Allegheny County Health Department Dental Program
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists

American Association of Women Dentists
American Association for Dental Research
American College of Prosthodontists
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association Connecticut
American Network of Oral Health Coalitions
ARBDDS Consulting
Arthur Center Community Health
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Bassett Healthcare Network
Bay and Saginaw Health Plans
Best Dental Help
California Dental Hygienists' Association
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Catalyst Miami
Center for Health Progress
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Central Missouri Community Action
Children Now
Children's Choice Pediatric Dentistry LLC
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Children's Hospital Colorado
CL Brumback Primary Care Clinics-Health Care District
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - Stout Street Health Center
Colorado Community Health Network
Communities Creating Opportunity
Community Catalyst
Community Health Services
Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc.
Creative Media Solutions, Inc.
Dental Trade Alliance
DentaQuest
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Families USA
Ferris State University
Greiffenstein Wells K-8 Alternative
Harder+Company Community Research
Health Reform Resource Project (Kansas)
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Capital District Initiative Seal A Smile School Based Oral Health Program
Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition
Idaho Oral Health Alliance
Indiana Oral Health Coalition
Indiana Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment
Justice in Aging
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Kansas Dental Association
Kansas Public Health Association
Kent County Oral Health Coalition
Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association
Kentucky Oral Health Coalition
Long Valley Health Center
Maine Primary Care Association
Marian Clinic, Inc.
Maryland Dental Action Coalition
Medicaid | Medicare | CHIP Services Dental Association
Mendocino Coast Clinics
Mendocino Community Health Clinic
Michigan Dental Association
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A.
Mid-Missouri Dental Center
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
Missouri Coalition for Oral Health
My Community Dental Centers
National Dental Association
Native American Connections
New Jersey Oral Health Coalition
New Mexico Oral Health Coalition
New York State Oral Health Center of Excellence
New York State Oral Health Coalition
NM Department of Health
North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative Interlocal #636
NYU Dentistry Student Chapter of American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Oral Health America
Oral Health Coalition of Alabama
Oral Health Colorado
Oral Health Florida
Oral Health Kansas, Inc.
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health
Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Policy Insights, LLC
Premier Community HealthCare Group
PWF Consulting
Rawlins County Dental Clinic
Regional Primary Care Network
Rochester Primary Care Network
San Fernando Community Health Center
School Based Health Alliance
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center
Southwest Baptist Church (Topeka, KS)
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Praxis Project
Truckee Meadows Community College Dental Hygiene Program
United Way of Central Jersey
United Way of Florida
United Way Suncoast
University of Iowa College of Dentistry
University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Dentistry
Virginia Health Care Foundation
Virginia Oral Health Coalition
West Virginia Oral Health Coalition
Youth Empowered Solutions