Speak out to #SaveCHIP: Urge Congress to pass long-term funding

Resources for January 2018

**Background:** On October 1, 2017, Congress allowed federal funds for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to expire — placing nine million children and more than 300,000 pregnant women nationwide at risk of losing medical and dental coverage. While Congress provided stopgap funding for the program in December 2017, states and families urgently need the stability that a long term renewal would provide. Recent data suggests that short term reallocations of CHIP money to states may not be enough to keep kids covered; many states are still facing the potential of shutting down or drastically limiting their CHIP programs. Despite this looming crisis — as well as strong public support for Congress to prioritize extending CHIP — lawmakers have put kids’ health on the back burner.

**Act now:** On Wednesday, January 10, it will have been more than 100 days since CHIP funding lapsed. Join the Children’s Dental Health Project and many children’s health partners in urging lawmakers to #SaveCHIP by immediately passing a long-term renewal.

A. **Call your members of Congress** by dialing (877) 233-9025. See this online resource for a sample of what to say and other tips to keep in mind when calling congressional offices.

B. **Speak up on social media** using the following tips:
   - Use or adapt the sample messages and images below. *(Fill in the brackets with as needed.)*
   - Participate by using your social media, blog or website. Post messages about it at any time — morning, afternoon or night.
   - Tag your members of Congress on social media by including their Twitter handle (account) in your message or by posting on their Facebook page.
     - Find a partial list of Twitter and Facebook accounts for your two **U.S. Senators here** and for your representative in the **U.S. House here**.
     - More social media information is likely on your individual lawmaker’s website, which you can find at the **U.S. Senate page** or **House of Representatives page**.

**Hashtags:** Please include the hashtag #SaveCHIP in your social media posts. Also try to use #ExtendCHIP to raise this urgent issue.
Twitter messages:

- [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE], as a voter in your state, I ask you to #SaveCHIP! Please #extendCHIP long term so 9M kids don’t lose health coverage.

- [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE], please prioritize kids this month. If you don’t #SaveCHIP w multi-year renewal, 9M kids could lose health coverage.

- [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE], 9M kids are counting on you to #SaveCHIP. Many may lose coverage soon if you don’t #ExtendCHIP for long term.

- [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE], it’s wrong for Congress to say US can’t afford to #extendCHIP when at least 10x that much went to tax cuts. Please #SaveCHIP.

- [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE] All the focus on taxes allowed CHIP funds to expire. Unacceptable! This voter urges you to #SaveCHIP. 1 in 8 kids count on it.

- It’s been 100 days since Congress let CHIP expire. 9M kids & 300K pregnant women can’t wait any longer. [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE]: #SaveCHIP.

- 90% of kids have dental coverage, but millions may soon lose it. Congress, #SaveCHIP to keep kids covered. #FundCHIPNow for the long term.

- If Congress fails to #ExtendCHIP long term, states may be forced to close CHIP programs. [LAWMAKER’S HANDLE]: #SaveCHIP now.

- CHIP has bipartisan support, but Congress let funds expire 100 days ago. [LAWMAKER’s HANDLE]: #SaveCHIP! #ExtendCHIP

- [LAWMAKER’s HANDLE] In spirit of bipartisanship, make children your 1st priority in 2018. #FundCHIPNow for the long term & protect 9M kids. #SaveCHIP

Facebook messages:

- 9 million kids could lose health and dental coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) because Congress let its funding lapse. Now lawmakers can’t agree if there’s money to extend CHIP. Seriously? If Congress just spent $1.4T on a tax bill, they can figure out a way to #SaveCHIP.

- 1 in 8 kids could lose access to medical and dental care because funds for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expired 100 days ago. Join me in urging Congress to prioritize kids’ health by voting to #SaveCHIP. Reach your reps at 877-233-9025. More CHIP resources are at http://www.cdhp.org/toolkit.
• Congress has placed 9 million kids at risk of losing medical and dental coverage by letting funds for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expire. If lawmakers don’t #FundCHIPNow, many kids could be dropped from coverage. Urge Congress to #ExtendCHIP now using resources at www.cdhp.org/toolkit.

Shareable images:

• Access below image at http://bit.ly/2k9uYtp

![CHIP funding has expired.
Congress: Don't keep 9 million children waiting any longer.](Image)

Find fact sheets, email scripts, a video and other CHIP resources at www.cdhp.org/toolkit

• Access below image at http://bit.ly/2mhCMaM

![Congress let funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expire on Sept. 30. Their delay to renew it has placed 1 in 8 children nationwide at risk of losing needed health coverage.
Tell Congress: #SaveCHIP.](Image)

For a sample email or call script, visit cdhp.org/toolkit.
Subscribe to our blog for updates: cdhp.org/blog.