Writing Emails or Letters to Governors about the Children’s Health Insurance Program

*Updated November 2017*

**Context:** The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides comprehensive coverage, including dental, for children from families who do not qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance. Congress let its federal funding expire on September 30, 2017. Since this lapse in funding, several state programs have been exploring contingency plans to freeze enrollment and/or shut down, jeopardizing CHIP coverage for children and families. It is more critical than ever to contact your Governor to express your support for CHIP. Urge your Governor to immediately communicate to Congress how important CHIP is to families in your state.

**Please contact your Governor:** Find websites, phone numbers and email information for your governor [right here](#). Use the below template to write an email or letter to your Governor:

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**Your full name**  
**Your address**  
**Your city, state, and zip code**  
(Optional: your phone number)

**Dear Governor [insert last name]**,

My name is _________ and I live in ___[city/state]____. (Optional: If you are a healthcare professional, you could also mention that in your introduction, “I am a dentist/dental hygienist/nurse practitioner/etc. in the community.”) I am writing to voice my concerns about the lapse in funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

On September 30, Congress let federal funding for CHIP expire. If Congress continues to let this funding lapse, thousands of children in our state — and nearly 9 million children nationwide — will remain at risk of losing medical and dental coverage that allows them to learn and thrive.

I am particularly concerned about the oral health needs of my community; without CHIP, these children may have no affordable option for vital dental coverage. **I urge you as Governor to do everything in your power to communicate these urgent concerns to Congress, and ensure that no family is left without the coverage they need to be healthy.**

[You could comment on how many children in your state benefit from CHIP]

**OR**

If you’d like to share a personal comment or brief story — either about CHIPS impact on you, your community, or your patients— this is a good time to tell it.)

Today, more children in the U.S. have oral health coverage than ever before, thanks to CHIP and programs like it. We must continue to build on these achievements — not tear them apart — for children and families. I’m counting on you to do the right thing: stand up for affordable oral health coverage in my community and across our state.

Thank you,  
[Your name here]
You can also directly contact your Congressional representatives about this issue and share these concerns. To find contact information for the Senators of your state, you can start here. To find contact information for the appropriate member of the House of Representatives, check here (see the search box on the upper right).