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## Statement of the National Children's Health Community Urging Quick Bipartisan Action on a Strong, Five-Year Extension of Funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program

September 6, 2017

As advocates for children and pregnant women, we call **on Congress to take immediate action to enact a five-year extension of CHIP funding**. Since its inception in 1997, CHIP, together with Medicaid, has helped to reduce the numbers of uninsured children by a remarkable 68 percent. With CHIP funding set to expire on September 30, 2017, now is the time for Congress to stabilize the CHIP funding stream and protect the gains in children's health coverage that have resulted in more than 95 percent of all children in America being enrolled in some form of insurance coverage.

CHIP has a proven track record of providing high-quality, cost-effective coverage for low-income children and pregnant women in working families. CHIP was a smart, bipartisan solution to a real problem facing American children and families when it was adopted in 1997 and its importance and impact in securing a healthy future for children in low-income families has only increased. Senators, representatives, and governors all recognize the importance of CHIP in providing affordable, pediatric-specific coverage to almost 9 million children who cannot afford private coverage or lack access to employer-based coverage. CHIP also delivers quality, affordable care to pregnant women in 19 states, allowing them to obtain the care they need to have healthy pregnancies and give birth to healthy infants.

With federal CHIP funding set to end on September 30, 2017, states are facing critical decisions about the future of their CHIP programs. Many states are just weeks away from setting in motion processes to establish waiting lists and send out disenrollment notices to families. Once undertaken, these actions will have an immediate effect, creating chaos in program administration and confusion for families.

Extending CHIP is particularly important in light of the ongoing debate on and uncertainty regarding the future of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, and the stability of the individual insurance markets. With state budgets already set for the coming year, states are counting on CHIP to continue in its current form. Changes to CHIP's structure – including

changes to the Maintenance of Effort or the enhanced CHIP matching rate – would cause significant disruption in children’s coverage and leave states with critical shortfalls in their budgets. Given CHIP’s track record of success, changes to CHIP that would cause harm to children must not be made.

Today, we stand united in urging Congress to honor CHIP’s 20 years of success by securing this critical source of coverage for children and pregnant women into the future. As Congress continues to work on larger health system reforms, a primary goal should be to improve health coverage for children, but at a minimum, no child should be left worse off. We urge our nation’s leaders to work together to enact a five-year extension of CHIP funding as an important opportunity for meaningful, bipartisan action.

Contact:

Ari Goldberg, VP Communications, First Focus, 240-678-9102; [agoldberg@firstfocus.org](mailto:agoldberg@firstfocus.org)

#KeepKidsCovered

#CHIPworks

### **Endorsing Organizations**

1,000 Days

Academic Pediatric Association

ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)

AFSCME

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

America's Essential Hospitals

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Dental Education Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Muslim Health Professionals

American Network of Oral Health Coalitions

American Pediatric Society

American Public Health Association

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Speaks  
Cancer Support Community  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Child Care Aware of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children and Family Futures  
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Leadership Council  
Children's Mental Health Network  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Catalyst  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Doctors for America  
Easterseals  
Every Child Matters  
Families USA  
Family Focused Treatment Association  
Family Voices  
First Focus  
First Star Institute  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Generations United  
Health Care for America Now  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Healthy Teen Network  
Heart Rhythm Society  
HIV Medicine Association  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Justice in Aging  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Make Some Noise: Cure Kids Cancer Foundation, Inc.  
March of Dimes  
Mental Health America  
NAACP  
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)  
NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)  
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Perinatal Social Workers  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Crittenton Foundation  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Respite Coalition  
National Women's Health Network  
Nemours Children's Health System  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council)  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Oral Health America  
Out2Enroll  
Partnership for America's Children  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Religious Institute  
RESULTS  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Solving Kids' Cancer  
The Children's Partnership

The Jewish Federations of North America  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Trust for America's Health  
United Way Worldwide  
Universal Health Care Action Network  
Voices for Progress  
Young Invincibles  
ZERO TO THREE