February 20, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As leading national, state, and local advocates concerned about the health and well-being of America’s children, we are writing to thank you for all of your efforts to protect and improve health coverage for our children and to urge you to take action this year to ensure continued funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Due in no small part to your leadership, today the numbers of uninsured children stand at a record low with 93 percent of children in America enrolled in coverage they can count on. CHIP is a major part of this success story and funding for CHIP is essential if we are to continue this positive coverage trend for children. Congress must act soon to protect and stabilize the CHIP funding stream if this program is to continue to be available for the millions of children who get their coverage through CHIP.

Since its inception in 1997, CHIP has been a vital program for low-income children in working families whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private health insurance. It has helped to cut the numbers of uninsured children by an astounding 50 percent while improving health outcomes and access to care for children and pregnant women across the nation. In FY 2012, more than 8 million children relied on CHIP for their health coverage.

Not only has CHIP been successful for low-income children and families, CHIP has strong bipartisan roots and is popular among governors because it gives states significant flexibility to design their programs to meet the needs of their populations. This unique structure has helped states tackle the costs of uncompensated care while reducing the numbers of uninsured kids. It has been a winner for states and families alike. CHIP’s value is also recognized by the general public, who, in poll after poll, have expressed overwhelming support for protecting CHIP and keeping this program strong.

Your action is needed soon because funding for CHIP is not permanent and is set to be cut dramatically next year. As states are adjusting to a variety of health system changes, it is essential that Congress secure CHIP’s future this year so that states can operate their programs without interruption. According to CBO estimates, inaction by Congress would result in 12.7 million children enrolled in FY 2015 being at risk of losing their CHIP
coverage in 2016. And millions of these children who lose CHIP would have no other coverage option to turn to. The resulting increase in the rate of uninsurance would be an enormous step backwards for children in every state.

Congress must act soon if children are to be protected. Inaction by Congress would mean a total reversal of fortune for the millions of children who use CHIP. As you set your priorities for the coming year we urge you to make the continuation of CHIP an important priority. We know that there are many pressing issues on the congressional agenda. We hope you agree that children’s health must be at the top of the list.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

First Focus
9to5, National Association of Working Women
AASA: The School Superintendents Association
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics
Alliance for a Just Society
Alliance for Children and Families
America's Essential Hospitals
America's Promise Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Cardiology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American School Counselor Association
American Thoracic Society
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autism Speaks
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's Health Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Coalition for Community Schools
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Community Catalyst
Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
Dignity Health
Direct Care Alliance
Doctors for America
Easter Seals
Enroll America
Families USA
Foster Family-Based Treatment Association
LEAnet, a National Network of Local Education Agencies
March of Dimes
MomsRising
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of La Raza
National Education Association
National Head Start Association
National Health Law Program
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Physicians Alliance
National PTA
Nemours
Nurse-Family Partnership
PICO National Network
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
RESULTS: Power to End Poverty
Save the Children
School Social Work Association of America
School-Based Health Alliance
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
The Children's Partnership
The Every Child Matters Education Fund
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Trust for America's Health

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Way Worldwide
ZERO TO THREE

State and Local Organizations

Alabama
Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics
Family Voices of Alabama

Alaska
American Academy of Pediatrics - Alaska Chapter
Kenai Peninsula United Way
United Way of Anchorage

Arizona
Arizona Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Children's Action Alliance
Valley of the Sun United Way

Arkansas
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California
Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Coverage & Health Initiatives
California Medical Association
California School-Based Health Alliance
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund-California
Children's Health Initiative of Orange County
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Clinica Sierra Vista
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Community Health Partnership
Faith in Community
Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC)
Insure the Uninsured Project
LA Voice
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Maternal and Child Health Access
PICO California
Robert Gish
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
Samoan National Nurses Association
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
United Ways of California

**Colorado**
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Together Colorado

**Connecticut**
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Connecticut Voices for Children

**Delaware**
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Delaware

**District of Columbia**
American Academy of Pediatrics, District of Columbia Chapter

**Florida**
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
FOCUS Orlando
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
Miami Cerebral Palsy Residential Services, Inc.
PICO United Florida
United Way of Broward County
United Way of Florida
United Way of Miami-Dade
United Way of Northeast Florida
United Way of Pasco County
United Way of Suncoast

**Georgia**
American Academy of Pediatrics-Georgia Chapter
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
Council of Administrators of Special Education

**Hawaii**
Aloha United Way
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter Inc.
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Hawaii
Jewish Community Services
KEY Project
Partners in Development Foundation
Idaho
American Academy of Pediatrics -- Idaho Chapter

Illinois
American Dental Hygienists' Association
Healthy Schools Campaign
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Oral Health America
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
United Way

Indiana
Family Voices Indiana
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Iowa
Child and Family Policy Center
Iowa Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Wyandotte County

Kentucky
4-C
Boone County Success By 6
Kentucky Oral Health Coalition
Kentucky Youth Advocates
KY Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Metro United Way
United Way of Central Kentucky
United Way of Eastern KY
United Way of Franklin County
United Way of Henderson County
United Way of Kentucky
United Way of Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Paducah-McCracken County
United Way of Southern Kentucky
United Way of the Coalfield

Louisiana
MQVN Community Development Corp.

Maine
Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Day One
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Children's Allinace
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine Parent Federation, Inc.
New England Consortium Regional Poverty Reduction Initiative

Maryland
Advocates for Children and Youth
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Healthy Teen Network
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans
Public Justice Center

Massachusetts
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Boston Children's Hospital
Children's Health Access Coalition
Health Care For All - Massachusetts
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Prevent Blindness, NE Region
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
United Interfaith Action of Southeastern Massachusetts
United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton, Inc.

**Michigan**
Center for Civil Justice
Michigan Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Consumers for Healthcare
Tender Touch
United Way for Southeastern Michigan

**Minnesota**
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immunization Action Coalition
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Mississippi**
Mississippi Center for Justice

**Missouri**
Area Community Health Emissaries
Communities Creating Opportunity
Missouri Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Greater Kansas City

**Montana**
American Academy of Pediatrics, Montana Chapter
Greater Gallatin United Way, Inc.
Montana Human Rights Network
The Arc Montana

**Nebraska**
Center for Rural Affairs
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Children in Nebraska

**Nevada**
ACTIONN

**New Hampshire**
New Hampshire Kids Count
New Hampshire Pediatric Society (NHPS)
New Hampshire Voices for Health
YWCA of New Hampshire

**New Jersey**
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Archway Programs, Inc.
Camden Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
Camden Churches Organized For People
Cape Atlantic Integrated Network for Kids
Cape Counseling Services, Inc.
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Center For Family Services
CGS Family Partnership, Inc.
Collier Youth Services
CWA Local 1081
Family & Children's Services
Family Service Association
Family Voices of New Jersey
Freehold Area Open Door, Inc.
Health Professionals and Allied Employees
Love In the Name of Christ
Lunch Break
Monmouth Cares
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Policy Perspective
Ocean Partnership for Children
PICO New Jersey
Richard Hall CMHC
Robins' Nest Inc.
Roselle Day Care Center
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Seashore Family Services of New Jersey
South Jersey NOW, the Alice Paul Chapter
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
The Salvation Army Red Bank Corps
The United Way of Greater Union County
United Way of Monmouth County
Vantage Health System, Inc

New Mexico
Family Voices
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Pediatric Society
New Mexico Voices for Children
NM Comunidades en Accion y de Fe (CAFe)

New York
Adirondack Health Institute
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 1
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 3
Bleeding Disorders Association of Northeastern New York, Inc.
Bleeding Disorders Association of the Southern Tier, Inc. (BDAST)
Center for Children's Initiatives
Center for Independence of the Disabled
Central New York Alliance for Retired Americans
Chautauqua County Association for the Education of Young Children
Children Awaiting Parents
Citizen Action of New York
Community Service Society of New York
Family Planning Advocates of New York State
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Fund for the Advancement of Social Services
Health Care For All New York Coalition
Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.
Larry Brown Associates
Liberty Resources, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of Mid and Northern New York, Inc.
Make the Road New York
Medicaid Matters New York
Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network or SCNY, Inc.
NAMI Huntington
NCJW of New York State
New York Blood Center
New York City Hemophilia Chapter
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York Legal Assistance Group
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition
New York State Dental Association
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Singles Mothers in Action
SSWA
St. Catherine's Center for Children
The Children's Agenda
United Neighborhood Houses
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
United Way of Greater Rochester
United Way of Seneca County
Westchester Children's Association
Women's City Club of New York
Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of Social Work

**North Carolina**
AccessCare
Children's Mental Health Network
North Carolina Pediatric Society
North Carolina School Community Health Alliance
TopDog Clinic-Ashe County School Based Health Center
Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)

**North Dakota**
North Dakota American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Area

**Ohio**
Asian Services In Action
Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
NAMI of Greater Toledo
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Ohio Organizing Collaborative
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Ottawa County Help Me Grow
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Greater Toledo
United Way of Ottawa County
Voices for Ohio's Children

**Oklahoma**
Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
United Way of Norman, Oklahoma

**Oregon**
Children First for Oregon
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon Poison Center
United Way of Lane County

**Pennsylvania**
Allies for Children
Brandywine Health Foundation
Kids Smiles
Kids With Food Allergies
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association
Pennsylvania Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pocono Family YMCA
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Reading Risk Reduction
Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association
United Way of Beaver County
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
United Way of York County, Pennsylvania

**Rhode Island**
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
WARM Center
South Carolina
MARYS House
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
The Parenting Place
United Way Association of South Carolina
United Way of Greenville County
United Way of Pickens County
United Way of the Lowcountry
United Way of York County

South Dakota
South Dakota State Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Tennessee
Tennessee Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee Justice Center
United Way of Coffee and Moore Counties
United Way of Monroe County
United Way of Washington County
Tennessee, Inc.
United Ways of Tennessee
Youth Villages, Inc.

Texas
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Disability Rights Texas
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas
National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter
Texans Care for Children
Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Texas Dental Association
United Way of Greater Houston

Utah
Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont
Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Vermont Family Network
Vermont Interfaith Action
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington
Children's Alliance
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

West Virginia
West Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia Parent Training Information, Inc.

Wisconsin
Fond du Lac Area United Way
Junior League of Eau Claire
Oshkosh Area United Way, Inc.
United Way Fox Cities
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Wyoming
UPLIFT