December 12, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Speaker of the House  Senate Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515  Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
House Minority Leader  Senate Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol  S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515  Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Schumer:

We ask that you make it a priority to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance program (CHIP) as quickly as possible. We believe covering children and pregnant women without disruption is one thing we can all agree on.

For twenty years, this program has successfully provided vital health coverage and care to about nine million children. Without it, access to essential health services like well child exams, asthma medicine, and hospitalizations will be at risk. As health insurance premiums climb at unsustainable rates, this program gives hard-working families access to otherwise unaffordable coverage.

In the absence of Congressional action, we have worked to protect coverage for children and pregnant women in each of our states, but we will need federal support to continue the program. Resources are nearly exhausted and some states already have begun to inform families that their children's coverage may end on January 31.

Since its creation, CHIP has enjoyed strong bipartisan support. We encourage you to work across the aisle to find common ground that will allow this important program to continue and give the families who rely on CHIP the peace of mind of knowing that their children will be able to get the health care they need in the new year.

Sincerely,

John Hickenlooper  John Kasich
Governor  Governor
State of Colorado  State of Ohio
Bill Walker  
Governor  
State of Alaska

John Bel Edwards  
Governor  
State of Louisiana

Tom Wolf  
Governor  
State of Pennsylvania

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor  
State of New Hampshire

Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor  
State of Virginia

Charles D. Baker  
Governor  
State of Massachusetts

Steve Bullock  
Governor  
State of Montana

Phil Scott  
Governor  
State of Vermont

Brian Sandoval  
Governor  
State of Nevada

Mark Dayton  
Governor  
State of Minnesota