

# Healthy Kids = Better Learners: Protect Children's Health Care



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**Congress should extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in early 2017, so that states can continue offering vital health care services without disruption. And, Congress should oppose any proposal to block grant Medicaid or institute per capita caps. Combined, CHIP and Medicaid are the single largest health insurer of children in the U.S. and we must work to preserve the vital services they provide.**

## **Support the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

- ▶ Funding expires September 30, 2017, locking that funding in now gives states the certainty to continue **providing health care services to millions of children** without disruption.
- ▶ Without CHIP the rate of uninsured kids will dramatically increase and approximately **8.4 million kids will have their health care coverage disrupted.**
- ▶ CHIP and Medicaid cover approximately 40% of all kids in the U.S.
- ▶ **Public polling shows the bipartisan popularity** of CHIP – [74% of respondents favored extending CHIP funding in one recent poll.](#)

## **Oppose Converting Medicaid to a Block Grant**

- ▶ Proposals that attempt to **block grant Medicaid would cut coverage for millions of people and kids across the country.**
- ▶ These cuts would be particularly devastating to low-income children who often rely solely on the health benefits provided by these programs.
- ▶ Block grants **shift costs to the states and will lead to funding shortfalls** that will strain state budgets. Most states are already under tight budget constraints forcing them to make **critical decisions between adequately funding health care or public education.**
- ▶ **We need healthy students who are ready to learn.**

## **Oppose Medicaid Per Capita Caps**

- ▶ **The caps fail to adjust for changes in need** caused by an economic downturn, natural disaster, demographics, rising health care costs or other unexpected shifts. **The inadequacy of this funding would grow over time** as the federal government's share of the costs would fall below projected growth of program costs.
- ▶ Imposing hard limits on federal Medicaid spending creates **financial hardship for states.**
- ▶ Ultimately, **caps would force states to increase their own spending dramatically,** cut services, or more likely both. Even then, many states will not be able to find the money in their limited budgets to make up for the shortfall.