



September 6, 2017

The Honorable Orin Hatch  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Thank you for holding tomorrow's important hearing on the path forward for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This year represents the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of CHIP, two decades in which the insured rate for America's children has risen to 95 percent, an incredible and critical bipartisan achievement. The member organizations of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) are proud to have worked in partnership with each of you to reach these heights and we plan to continue to work locally to provide essential coverage and care to children across our nation.

ACHP brings together innovative health plans and provider groups that are among America's best at delivering affordable, high-quality coverage and care. ACHP's 21 health plans provide coverage to more than 19 million Americans in 28 states and the District of Columbia. Our organizations focus on improving the health of the communities they serve and are leading innovations in affordability and quality of care, including primary care redesign, payment reforms, accountable health care delivery and use of information technology.

ACHP's member plans provide coverage and care to CHIP enrollees in states important to many members of the Finance Committee. Select Health covers over half of the nearly 20,000 CHIP beneficiaries in the State of Utah. Care Oregon helps 16,000 Oregon children stay healthy and Priority Health in Michigan covers 4,000 young people. Kaiser Permanente has over 178,000 children enrolled in the regions in which it operates including Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia and Washington. Geisinger Health Plan covers over 13,000 Pennsylvania children while UPMC Health Plan insures more than 36,000, the most of any health plan in the Commonwealth.

Over the past two decades, we have seen CHIP blossom into a program that improves the lives of our children and therefore sustains the future of America. As such, we wanted to share a few success stories with the Committee.

Four years ago, Kaiser Permanente began treating a 15 year old patient living in Oregon whom we will call Sandra. Sandra's doctor watched as she appeared to be giving up on her diabetes control, had twice attempted to take her own life, had numerous ER visits and two hospitalizations. Ever since her diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes, her illness was not an issue Sandra ever wanted to talk about; doing so only brought resistance and tears. Sandra's doctor on-boarded her to Kaiser Permanente's Team-Based

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Care – coordinated care between multiple specialties headed by a care coordinator, often a nurse, overseeing access to those different specialties and services – which is included in her CHIP benefits. By talking about things important to her, Sandra was able to see that her care-team treated her not just as a person with diabetes, but as a resilient and adaptable young woman who wanted to graduate high school and go to college.

By spring of the following year, Sandra was participating in counseling, receiving medication, and attending school regularly. Today, thanks in part to the benefits of CHIP and the work of Kaiser Permanente, Sandra is a 19-year who works and goes to college. Importantly, she has not gone to the ER or been hospitalized for the past 14 months. CHIP changed the trajectory of Sandra's life.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, ACHP Member Geisinger Health Plan has been serving a seven-year old girl we will call Nicole. Nicole has asthma and was on several medications as well as a nebulizer. Due to her CHIP benefits, she is now only on a controller medication and has not needed to use her nebulizer for several months. Owing to this milestone, Nicole's mother was excited recently when they were able to share an outdoor concert together, Nicole's first. Geisinger's case manager routinely speaks with Nicole's mother to provide support and education. Nicole also has her regular PCP, dental and ophthalmologist appointments which keep her healthy and moving forward. Thanks to CHIP, Nicole is on her way to a stable and healthy childhood.

These two stories are just a snapshot of the critical importance of the CHIP program and its partnership with ACHP members. For over two decades, this landmark, bipartisan achievement has helped children across our country grow into healthy, productive, working Americans. We urge Senators to reauthorize CHIP as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ceci Connolly".

Ceci Connolly  
President & CEO

Cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance