



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

November 1, 2017

The Honorable David Schweikert
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schweikert,

I am writing today to encourage Congress to swiftly pass an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in both the House and Senate. Today, over 23,000 Arizona kids depend on this program for a wide variety of medical treatments from setting a broken arm to cancer treatment. Because of Congress's inaction on the CHIP reauthorization bill, these families are in limbo, wondering whether their children will lose their health insurance.

CHIP, which is known in Arizona as KidsCare, is not a typical welfare program that is provided without cost to able-bodied adults who are not working or looking for work. KidsCare can fairly be described as a work support program that provides healthcare coverage for children of low-income, working parents who don't make enough to pay for commercial coverage. The working parents of these children make between 138% and 200% of the federal poverty level and pay premiums of up to \$70 a month. Without this option being available to these families, we risk such families either choosing to forego routine medical care for their children or reducing their working hours (or ceasing to work all together) in order to qualify for Medicaid. We can eliminate the need for families to choose between these two undesirable choices by renewing CHIP and helping keep these parents in the workforce, contributing to the economy, and having greater opportunity to advance in their careers to a point where they will no longer need government assistance.

As you know, CHIP has had bipartisan support beginning with its inception in 1997. This has never been a partisan issue and should not be one now. There are a lot of things that divide us, but taking care of these kids is something that should unite us. I urge all of you to speak with


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your leadership, ask them to bring the bill to the floor by December, and vote to continue this program and not pull the rug out from under thousands of Arizona kids.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Douglas A. Ducey

Governor

State of Arizona

Cc: Arizona Congressional Delegation