



CHIP Messages for Senate Recess Meetings

The Senate will resume consideration of [H.R. 2](#) upon return from recess April 13. As you meet with your Senators and their staff during recess, it is imperative to emphasize the importance of CHIP and the urgency of passing an extension of CHIP with all its current provisions intact.

Overall message

For over 17 years, CHIP has helped millions of children get the health care they need. CHIP keeps children healthy, allowing them to get consistent care and timely appropriate treatment. If CHIP is not extended, more than a million kids will lose coverage, and many others will move into coverage that does not meet the specific health care needs of children. I am asking you to support H.R. 2, which extends funding for this important program, when the Senate votes on it after recess.

Why we need action on CHIP now

We urge you to support swift passage of legislation to continue CHIP without harmful cuts.

- We are pleased that the Senate has the opportunity to pass a clean extension of CHIP immediately after recess—we must not put children at risk.
- Ending CHIP would mean reversing the gains we've made in providing critical health care coverage to children.
- We urge you to pass a package that includes a clean extension of CHIP with all its current provisions intact as soon as possible.

Why CHIP is important

CHIP provides children and families with high quality, child-specific coverage.

- We supported H.R. 2 in the House—that package extended CHIP in its current form without making harmful cuts to the program, continuing this high quality, child-specific coverage for over 8 million children.
- In addition to extending CHIP funding, H.R. 2 extends funding for community health centers, the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program, and family to family information centers; these are all important sources of health care and other support for families in our community.

Why CHIP matters to our state

State budgets depend on continued CHIP funding.

- We are pleased that the Senate is considering the future of CHIP in a timely manner—states are depending on CHIP funding to determine their 2016 budgets.
- Governors have spoken—they need answers about the future of CHIP funding as soon as possible, so they can plan for their upcoming fiscal year, and they overwhelmingly support refunding CHIP.

Community Catalyst works to ensure consumer interests are represented wherever important decisions about health and the health system are made: in communities, courtrooms, statehouses and on Capitol Hill.

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