

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 30, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer:

We write to you today concerning the vital importance of reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). We appreciate your support of this critical program that provides children in Nevada and across the nation with affordable, quality care.

The Nevada Checkup program provides health care to more than 27,000 children in our state. As strong supporters of this important program, we wish to reiterate our support and desire to ensure children and families who rely on this program do not see a lapse in coverage.

As current reauthorization funding for CHIP expired on September 30, 2017, Nevada was projected to run out of current funding on or around December 15, 2017. While this news was concerning, we are pleased that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced it will provide Nevada with additional redistribution funding in December and January and remain hopeful that Congress will act swiftly to provide stability and certainty for CHIP.

We are also pleased to see that the Senate Finance Committee has played a critical role in moving forward a long-term reauthorization of CHIP under the leadership of Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden. This bipartisan legislation, the Keeping Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act (S.1827), was approved by the Finance Committee on October 4, 2017, and would extend funding for CHIP for five years, as well as provide additional protections for low-income children and increase flexibility for states.

As you continue working towards a path forward on CHIP reauthorization, we urge you to swiftly advance a renewal of federal funding for this program that will provide children and families in Nevada and across the nation with the certainty they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you to provide needed stability for vulnerable children in Nevada and across the nation.

Sincerely,



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator