



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

## **Children's Alliance applauds U.S. House passage of support for Apple Health for Kids**

Senate Strongly Encouraged to Take Action Now to Extend CHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 26, 2015

CONTACT: Adam Hyla E. Holdorf, Communications Director, (206) 326-9964

SEATTLE—Children's health advocates in Washington state praised the U.S. House of Representatives today for taking action to ensure children in Washington state and across the nation continue to get the quality health coverage they need to succeed.

Today's bipartisan House vote to renew funding for the highly successful Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will help ensure that kids from low- and moderate-income working families continue to receive the care they need to reach their full potential.

Apple Health for Kids is our state's affordable, comprehensive, preventive health coverage plan for children. CHIP, which provides some of the federal funding for Apple Health for Kids, has a long history of bipartisan support, providing coverage for children in families that don't have access to affordable health care. As a result of CHIP's implementation, coverage rates for kids across the country are at a historic high of close to 93 percent.

"Members of Washington's delegation stood up for our state to support Apple Health for Kids," said Jon Gould, Children's Alliance deputy director. "Their actions will help make sure more than 44,000 Washington children keep the coverage and quality care that families depend on."

"We strongly urge the Senate to build on the House bill by quickly passing a four-year extension of this critical program," Gould continued. "By ensuring that CHIP funding stays intact, Congress can provide the stability families and state officials need."

Forty-two governors of both parties, including Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, called on Congress to move quickly to fully fund CHIP. Most states are planning on finalizing their budgets now, and many have already factored the amount of promised federal CHIP funding into their plans. In Washington state, this means Congress must take action to pass this

legislation or state lawmakers will have to cut around \$129 million from the fiscal year 2016 budget alone.

“The message is loud and clear: CHIP is an important lifeline for our state’s children,” said Gould. “Congress has taken an important step today and we urge members to finalize legislation quickly to provide families and states the stability they need to plan for the next four years.”

###

*The Children’s Alliance ([www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org)) is a statewide public policy advocacy organization that works at the state and federal level to ensure that all children have what they need to thrive.*