



#FundCHIPColorado

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. Senate

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the 75-member Colorado CHIP Coalition, we write today to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3, the “Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.” We respectfully urge you to vote “no” on this measure when it arrives on the Senate floor this week for a vote.

Our broad and diverse coalition represents child health advocates, family doctors, pediatricians, community clinics, large and small hospitals and many others who have seen firsthand that the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or CHP+ as Colorado’s program is called, has made a genuine impact on tens of thousands of Colorado kids and their families as well as the pregnant women the program serves.

In February, families across Colorado and the country breathed a sigh of relief when Congress finally reached—and the President signed—a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize CHIP funding for 10 years. We greatly appreciate your support from the outset on a bipartisan solution to reauthorize long-term CHIP funding.

That said, we are distraught by the U.S. House’s recent passage of H.R. 3, a measure that would claw back \$15 billion in previously approved spending, almost half of which would come from two accounts in CHIP. While concerned with the harmful reopening of the CHIP funding debate by targeting two funding pools that implicate CHIP, we are especially concerned by the proposal to rescind nearly \$2 billion in funding available for the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund. This contingency fund funnels additional dollars into states if they experience an unexpected surge in enrollment, such as in the case of a natural disaster or an economic downturn.

We fear that Congress is quickly working to undo the progress made earlier this year by rushing to pass this measure. H.R. 3 violates the bipartisan agreement that Congress and the President reached earlier this year to authorize CHIP funding for an additional decade. This agreement protected coverage for

children, gave families peace of mind and enabled states to make investments that strengthen and improve their CHIP programs.

We urge you to reject the proposal and any attempt to reduce government spending on the backs of children's health. It is critical that we keep kids covered, rather than taking a step backwards by cutting funding that is vital to the health of the program, and to the health of the 90,000 Colorado kids and pregnant women who use CHIP to access needed healthcare in Colorado.

We urge you to protect children and families, and to reject any proposals that threaten CHIP funding, including H.R. 3. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Colorado CHIP Coalition

CC: Gov. John Hickenlooper

Kim Bimestefer, executive director of Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Gretchen Hammer, Medicaid Director

Sen. Kent Lambert

Sen. Kevin Lundberg

Sen. Dominick Moreno

Rep. Bob Rankin

Rep. Millie Hamner

Rep. Dave Young