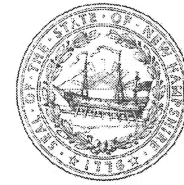


PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

November 21, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

We write in support of Congress reauthorizing the Community Health Center, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Center Program Funds as well as the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). These funds and the health care activities they support enjoy broad bipartisan backing, including their inclusion in the President's budget proposal. Since the expiration of these funds on September 30, 2017, the 22 Health Centers and their patients across New Hampshire and Vermont are already facing disruptions in their services. Without reauthorization of CHIP, both of our states will face significant budgetary pressures as we continue to provide coverage for children in our states. We, therefore, urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize these critical programs.

Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont provide cost-effective, accessible, quality, integrated team-based primary health care to over 260,000 New Hampshire and Vermonters regardless of their ability to pay. Health Center patients receive comprehensive care including physical health, oral health, behavioral and mental health, as well as substance use disorder and Medication Assisted Treatment services. Increasingly, as our states face a growing opioid epidemic, the Health Centers have heeded the call to combat the crisis by adding significant staffing to support treatment. Health Centers are a true health home providing low cost pharmaceuticals, patient care management, nutrition counseling, and translation services. Health

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Centers across our states are the pillar of primary health care for our most vulnerable populations.

Without action by Congress, New Hampshire and Vermont's Health Centers face a loss of \$16 million and \$14 million, respectively. This loss will have significant impacts on local economies, resulting in site closures, job losses, and the loss of access to health care for tens of thousands of residents. At this time, because of fiscal uncertainty, our Health Centers are engaged in hiring freezes, losing staff, halting renovation or expansion projects, and delaying implementation of much-needed medical, oral health, behavioral and mental health services including substance use disorder and Medication Assisted Treatment services for their patients.

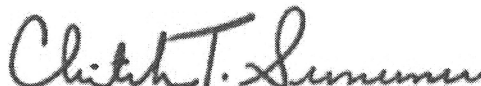
Regarding CHIP, both New Hampshire and Vermont have used the CHIP program to expand Medicaid coverage for children. In Vermont, CHIP has allowed the state to achieve near universal coverage of children, with the lowest uninsured rate among children in the country. Likewise, New Hampshire's CHIP program covers nearly every eligible child under the age of 19. Each program supports preventive and oral health care, both of which are critical to starting children on a healthy path. Supporting a five-year extension provides our states with stability and predictability that is important to planning and budgeting.

Congress has supported these programs in a bipartisan manner from their inception in recognition of the significant value they bring. We encourage you to quickly work together to reach a bipartisan agreement on a five-year authorization that will continue to support the health of Americans through CHIP and the Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Center program. Thank you for your efforts to ensure these vital programs are funded so Health Centers can continue to provide care to those who need it most. As in the past, we remain committed to working with you to ensure this funding is restored.

Sincerely,



Philip B. Scott
Governor of Vermont



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire

PBS/CTS/kp