Chipped Off: Feeling frustrated that Congress still hasn't funded CHIP? So

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Written by: Questions?



Last week we learned that Congress will likely <u>delay on funding CHIP</u> -- again. We also learned that the Utah CHIP program <u>posted a notice to parents</u> that Utah's CHIP funding will run out by the end of January and coverage could end. Grim news all around.

But what's most upsetting is that Congress has put states and families in this position at all. We simply should not be here.

The CHIP program is a bipartisan program. Both the House and Senate have agreed upon a 5-year funding extension for CHIP. There is no excuse for this delay.

As <u>others have noted</u>, the damage to CHIP is already being done. While Congress assures us that CHIP will get funded, states face chaos and confusion. While

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members of Congress tell us that they prioritize families, millions of parents are worried that their kids' coverage could come to an end.

Here at Voices for Utah Children, we will continue to call upon our Congressional reps to act quickly on the agreed-to, bipartisan solution for CHIP. We will continue to support state agencies, community partners and families as they navigate the best ways to ensure kids have consistent care.

But we also need to tell Congress that we should not be here in the first place. While Congress votes to cut care and drive up costs for more working families, they have neglected the well-being of our kids.

There is no excuse for their inaction.

For 30 years now, Voices for Utah Children has called on our state, federal and local leaders to put children's needs first. But the work is not done. The children of 30 years ago now have children of their own. Too many of these children are growing up in poverty, without access to healthcare or quality educational opportunities.

How can you be involved?

<u>Make a tax-deductible donation</u> to Voices for Utah Children—<u>or join our Network</u> with a monthly donation of \$20 or more. Network membership includes complimentary admission to Network events with food, socializing, and opportunity to meet child advocacy experts. And don't forget to <u>join our listserv</u> to stay informed!

We look forward to the future of Voices for Utah Children and we hope you will be a part of our next 30 years.

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