

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell,

As Congress approaches the deadline to extend Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding at the end of this month, we write to urge you to swiftly bring a multi-year, fully funded reauthorization that includes continued enhanced match rate funding for a vote.

Arizona's children stand to lose the most if CHIP funding is not renewed, putting the state in the difficult position of deciding how to proceed in the absence of new funds. Arizona is one of three states, including North Carolina and Minnesota along with the District of Columbia, that would deplete federal funds to cover children by December of 2017.

As you may know, until 2016 Arizona was the only state in the nation without an active CHIP program. At its peak, the waiting list for coverage after the state froze its KidsCare program in 2010 topped 100,000. Thousands of children across our state lost access to affordable, quality care. When Congress last reauthorized the program by passing the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) in 2015 with enhanced CHIP match rate funding, members of our delegation worked with bipartisan state leaders and CMS to pave the way for Arizona to unfreeze KidsCare.

We have made critical strides as a result – since KidsCare reopened last year, over 22,000 kids have regained coverage. Instead of undermining the important gains Arizona is continuing to make, we must collectively build on that progress. Our providers and state officials need certainty to effectively plan for providing care to those enrolled and eligible for coverage. Parents need peace of mind to make sure their children will not experience disruptions in their health care.

CHIP has long been a bipartisan program in Congress and in our states. We know when kids are healthy and have access to continuous, comprehensive, affordable coverage, that families,

schools, and our state's bottom line all win. We stand ready and committed to improve the health and economic wellbeing of our most important constituents: Arizona's children.

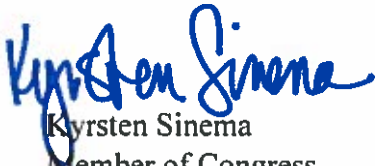
Sincerely,



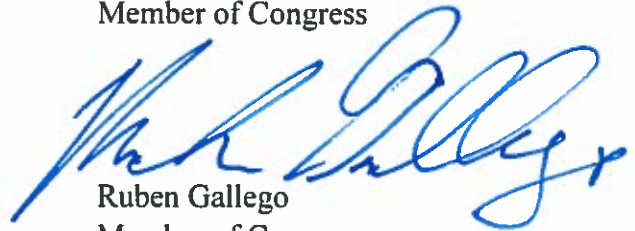
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



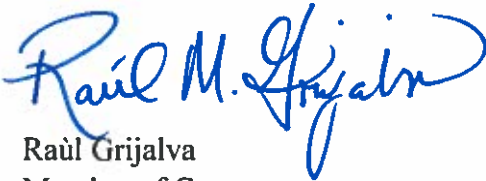
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress