



Calling Your Governor about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

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Background: The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides comprehensive coverage, including dental, for children from families who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance options for their children. Congress let federal funding for CHIP expire on September 30, 2017. Since then, several state programs have been exploring contingency plans to freeze enrollment and/or shut down, potentially leaving approximately 9 million children without coverage. It is more critical than ever to contact your Governor to express your support for CHIP. Urge the Governor to make it immediately clear to Congress how important CHIP is to families in your state. Find contact information for your Governor [here](#).

Make a plan to call: You'll want to call during the work day (typically 9 am to 5:30 pm ET) so you can reach a staff person. If you cannot reach a staffer, leave a voicemail.

Draft a message or a script: Here's a sample message to get you started:

Hi, my name is [*your first and last name*] and I live in [*City and State*] .

I am calling to voice my concerns about the loss of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

On September 30, federal funding for CHIP expired. This funding lapse is placing nearly 9 million children nationwide at risk of losing coverage. Allowing CHIP funding to run out is irresponsible as thousands of children in our state are in danger of losing access to the health and dental care that allow them to learn and thrive.

I am particularly concerned about the oral health needs of my community. Without CHIP, these children may have no affordable option for dental coverage. I urge you as Governor to do everything in your power to communicate these urgent concerns to Congress, and ensure that no family is left without the coverage they need to be healthy.

(You could comment on how many [children in your state](#) benefit from CHIP.

OR

If you'd like to share a personal comment or brief story — either about CHIP's impact on you, your community, or your patients— this is a good time to tell it.)

I'm counting on the Governor to do the right thing: stand up for CHIP and preserve affordable oral health coverage in my community and across the country.

Thank you.

(Note: Be prepared to give your name and full address.)

You can also contact your **Congressional representatives** about this issue and share these concerns. To find contact information for the Senators of your state, you can [start here](#). To find contact information for the appropriate House of Representatives member you can [check here](#) (see the search box on the upper right).