September 8, 2014

The Honorable Henry Waxman
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
237 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Congressman Pallone:

As organizations that share the vision that improving oral health is essential to achieving healthy children and families, we applaud your dedication to the health of America’s children through the CHIP Extension and Improvement Act of 2014 (H.R.3654). This four year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will ensure that millions of children continue to receive the comprehensive health and dental coverage necessary to allow them to be healthy and ready to play, learn, and grow.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) guaranteed CHIP enrolled children access to comprehensive and affordable dental coverage. That coverage has provided families the opportunity to obtain necessary care to prevent and treat dental disease. Families are assured by having CHIP coverage that the annual costs will be limited based on their family’s income. We appreciate the explicit recognition that inclusion of dental care in the five percent cost-sharing limit is critical to the affordability of health coverage for working families.

CHIP works for families and we applaud your efforts to maintain the program for working families. We support your effort to extend CHIP and look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of meaningful dental coverage for children.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists’ Association
American Network of Oral Health Coalitions
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Children’s Dental Health Project
Children Now