

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

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut  
Connecticut Oral Health Initiative  
Envision 2020  
Hispanic Dental Association  
Kentucky Oral Health Coalition  
Kentucky Youth Advocates  
Maryland Dental Action Coalition  
Michigan Oral Health Coalition  
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition  
North Dakota Oral Health Coalition  
Oral Health America  
Oral Health Colorado  
Oral Health Kansas  
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health  
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.  
The Children's Partnership  
The Friends of NIDCR (FNIDCR)  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Virginia Oral Health Coalition  
Washington State Oral Health Coalition  
West Virginia Oral Health Coalition  
Whitefoord, Inc.