



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

June 16, 2014

Senator John D. Rockefeller
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller,

On behalf of America's Essential Hospitals (formerly the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems), which represents more than 220 hospitals nationwide, I write in support of your efforts to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through fiscal year (FY) 2019.

Since its bipartisan creation in 1997, CHIP has been a reliable source of health insurance coverage. According to the Congressional Budget Office, nearly 13 million children will be enrolled in CHIP during FY 2015. America's Essential Hospitals supports a four-year extension of CHIP to ensure these children do not lose their coverage in FY 2016, when current funding will end.

Members of America's Essential Hospitals disproportionately provide care to low-income families and children, many of whom rely on CHIP. Our members see first-hand how this stable, affordable coverage helps low-income children access the health care they need, when they need it.

Thank you for all of your good work on behalf of children and their families. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to continue CHIP.

Sincerely,



Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO

cc: Ron Wyden, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance