



# AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

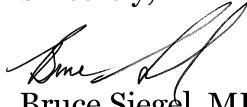
Dear Representatives Pallone and Green,

On behalf of America's Essential Hospitals – which represents more than 250 hospitals dedicated to serving all patients, particularly the most vulnerable – I would like to express our support for H.R. 919, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Extension and Improvement Act of 2015, to extend CHIP funding through fiscal year (FY) 2019.

CHIP is a vital lifeline for many of the families served by essential hospitals. These families are low-income, but are not eligible for Medicaid, which makes CHIP the only viable option for affordable health coverage. It is estimated that more than 10 million children and pregnant women will be enrolled in CHIP this year, and it is critical that funding for this program, which is set to expire at the end of FY 2015, is extended in a timely manner. Without a funding extension, many of the children enrolled in CHIP could go uninsured, which poses greater difficulty for essential hospitals that treat these children to make ends meet. Leaving these children without access to coverage would be unacceptable.

We thank you for your leadership to extend CHIP. America's Essential Hospitals will continue to advocate for this legislation's timely passage and enactment.

Sincerely,



Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH  
President and CEO

Cc: Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
Rep. John Boehner, Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, House of  
Representatives