

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Capitol, H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

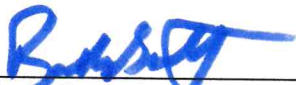
Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, 66,000 children and 1,100 pregnant women rely on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Over the last two fiscal years, CHIP in Virginia covered 218,190 immunizations, 221,309 well-child checkups, 21,430 glasses and contact lenses, and 326,567 dental visits. CHIP is an indispensable partner to Virginia in securing a healthy future for our children.

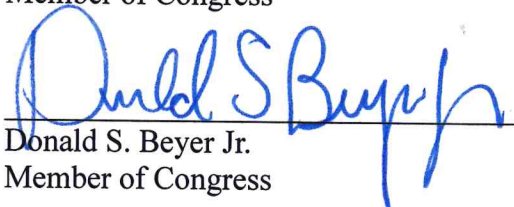
As you are aware, CHIP's authorization expired on September 30th, and now Virginia will run out of funds in January 2018 if CHIP is not reauthorized. Governor Terry McAuliffe has been forced to notify families this week that Congress has yet to reauthorize CHIP and that families should consider exploring other coverage options – which for some children and their families simply may not exist. Linda Nablo, Chief Deputy Director at Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services, has said that for "most families, their children will go without insurance."

Further inaction is immoral and needless. CHIP has always received overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, Senators Orrin Hatch and Ron Wyden reached a bipartisan deal to reauthorize CHIP for five years in September, and the Senate Finance Committee has already acted on this bill. We implore you to take up this bill, or a similar bipartisan reauthorization immediately.

Sincerely,



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress