CHAMPIONS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

FACTSHEET

CHIP: A Catalyst to Help Kids Succeed

The Children's Health Insurance Program offers kids critical healthcare that helps them reach their true potential

The life stories of many high-profile athletes include triumphs over health problems—triumphs that helped those athletes achieve success in their careers and beyond. Children, especially children with special health needs, can have the same opportunity to reach their true potential in school and in life if they have access to health insurance.

About CHIP

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides low-cost health insurance to children in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance.[1] Over 8.9 million children—one in ten children nationwide—were enrolled in 2016.[2] For many of the 200,000 children with disabilities and special health needs who utilize CHIP, the program is literally a life-saver.[3]

Strengthening mind & body

- **CHIP improves physical health:** Studies consistently find that CHIP cuts the proportion of kids with unmet physical health needs in half or more.[4] For example, one study found that children received better asthma care on CHIP and, as a result, had half as many asthma attacks one year later. In addition, one-quarter as many children had been hospitalized for asthma.[5]



CHIP helps kids manage chronic conditions such as asthma, which enables them to lead active lives and do well in school.

- **CHIP improves mental health:** Nearly 20 percent of children in the U.S. have a mental health condition, and most do not get the help they need.[6] CHIP connects children with proven mental health treatments, which helps them reach positive milestones in school and in life.[7]
- **CHIP improves academics:** One in seven students are chronically absent from school, missing more than 10 percent of the school year.[8] Health problems are a leading cause. CHIP helps kids become healthy enough to attend school by improving children's dental health and management of chronic conditions.[9]

Reauthorize CHIP to help kids succeed

Kids need to be healthy so they can succeed in school and in life. Without reauthorization of CHIP before September 30, 2017, millions of American children will lose access to a vital source of healthcare, compromising their ability to achieve their greatest potential.

1 Generally between 200%-300% of poverty. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2017). https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-eligibility-levels/index.html

2 CHIP also enrolls more than 300,000 pregnant women. Medicaid.gov (2017). https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2016-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

3 Kaiser Family Foundation (2017). http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-and-children-with-special-health-care-needs/

4 Lave et al. (1998) http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/187612; Davidoff et al. (2005) http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/116/1/e34; Rosenbach et al. (2007) https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/national-evaluation-of-the-state-childrens-health-insurance-program-a-decade-of-expanding-coverage-and-improving-access

5 9.5 vs. 3.8 asthma attacks and 11% vs. 3% hospitalized. Szilagyi et al. (2006). http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/117/2/486.short

6 National Institutes of Health. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/any-disorder-among-children.shtml; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6202a1.htm; Kataoka, S., et al. http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.ajp.159.9.1548

7 Harrington and Kenney, et al. (2014, August). https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/77046/rpt_CHIPevaluation.pdf

8 2013-14 data. U.S. Department of Education. "Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools." Retrieved from https://www2.ed.gov/datastory/chronicabsenteeism.html

9 Jackson S.L., et al (2011, October). Impact of poor oral health on children's school attendance and performance. Am J Public Health. 101(10):1900–6; Moonie, S. A., et al. (2006). Asthma status and severity affects missed school days. Journal of School Health, 76(1), 18-24.

Champions for America's Future
Athletes and coaches promoting policy solutions for at-risk kids to compete in life.

Council for a Strong America is a national, bipartisan nonprofit that unites five organizations comprised of law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, business executives, pastors, and prominent coaches and athletes who promote solutions that ensure our next generation of Americans will be citizen-ready.

1212 New York Avenue NW / Suite 300 / Washington, DC 20005 / 202.464.7005

COUNCIL FOR A
STRONG AMERICA

StrongNation.org