



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

February 23, 2014

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown, Wyden, Stabenow and Casey,

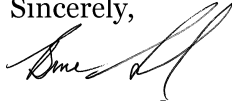
On behalf of America's Essential Hospitals – which represents more than 250 hospitals dedicated to serving all patients, particularly the most vulnerable – I would like to express our support for the Protecting Our Children's Health Insurance Program Act of 2015, or PRO-CHIP Act, to extend CHIP funding for four years through fiscal year (FY) 2019.

For many years, CHIP has served as a vital lifeline for many of the families served by essential hospitals. It is because of CHIP that so few children are uninsured today. The families that rely on CHIP are low-income, but are not eligible for Medicaid, which makes CHIP the only viable option for affordable health coverage. Without access to CHIP, many of the more than 10 million children and pregnant women enrolled in CHIP this year, could go uninsured. America's Essential Hospitals believes in ensuring access to affordable quality health coverage for all, and the loss of funding for this critical program, which is set to expire at the end of FY 2015, would be an incredible detriment to the families CHIP serves. Further, as essential hospitals continue to operate on average at negative margins, any loss of coverage for individuals treated in essential hospitals increases already difficult efforts to make ends meet. Leaving these children without access to coverage would be unacceptable.

America's Essential Hospitals thanks you for your leadership on this issue. We are pleased to support the PRO-CHIP Act's proposal for a straight forward four year funding extension of CHIP as we know it, and under existing law.

We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward, and will continue to advocate for swift passage and enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Siegel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO

Cc: The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader