

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and
CEO

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

The American Lung Association greatly appreciates the Committee's actions this week to extend funding for five years for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP is a vital program for almost nine million American children and without its continuation, the health of these children would be put at risk.

Children with serious health conditions including asthma cannot be without healthcare coverage. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children with asthma are more likely to have coverage through CHIP and Medicaid than children without asthma (47.4% vs. 38.1%), making the funding extension vitally important.

While the American Lung Association strongly supports the reauthorization of CHIP, we oppose the current pay-fors for the legislation, including the use of the both current and future money from the Public Health and Prevention Fund (Prevention Fund) to pay for CHIP. Raiding funding for public health will negatively impact children's health. Losing public health investments aimed at preventing illness and injury is likely cause children to be sicker and our nation's healthcare costs to skyrocket. Our nation will never get costs under control if we don't invest in keeping children and families healthy in the first place.

Tragic public health emergencies like wildfires in the West, and hurricanes in Florida, Puerto Rico and Texas highlight how urgent it is for our nation to maintain investments in the public health infrastructure. Children are at the greatest risk from these disasters

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and cutting funding from CDC will further jeopardize the health of the very children CHIP works to protect.

Sincerely,



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