December 18, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Paul Ryan  
United States Senate  House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States Senate  House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510

Re:  Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization

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

I write to you today on behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA) and its over 410,000 members to reaffirm our support for reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ABA policy has long supported legislation that ensures the provision of comprehensive health care for children 18 years of age and younger and prenatal care for pregnant women.

As you know, CHIP funding expired almost three months ago on September 30, 2017. The most recent stop-gap measure passed in Congress to allow some states that have run out of funding to continue their programs is not enough for the 8.9 million children who rely on CHIP or for the states that need to plan for coverage. An immediate, long-term extension of funding for CHIP must be enacted now. Many of the children who stand to lose the protection of CHIP would likely have no other affordable coverage option available to them because these children are in working families whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private insurance. The resulting increase in the rate of uninsured children would be an enormous step backwards.

We urge you to pass CHIP reauthorization this week so that our nation can continue providing children and pregnant women the healthcare they need as we enter the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Susman