

June 18, 2013

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

As organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of children and women, we are writing to thank you for your leadership on behalf of these important populations.

As a result of enactment of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization (CHIPRA) in 2009, which gave states the option to provide Medicaid and CHIP coverage to lawfully present children and pregnant women within the 5-year bar, approximately half of states have seen the benefit of providing insurance coverage to this population of children and pregnant women. This provision was passed by strong bipartisan majorities in the both the Senate and House and is critical for the health and well-being of lawfully-residing children and pregnant women.

We thank you for championing this provision. Five years is a lifetime to a child. Pregnant women cannot wait 5 years for care. Timely coverage can mean the difference between preventing or treating conditions that can affect a child's long-term prospects for a healthy, productive life, and leaving those conditions undetected and untreated. Prenatal care is essential to promoting positive health outcomes among women and preventing harmful and potentially life-threatening health complications. Babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care.

As Congress considers S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, it is vital that lawfully present children and pregnant women who qualify for Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) or blue card status or obtain a V nonimmigrant visa be treated the same as other children and pregnant women who are lawfully present under current law.

All children should have the opportunity to grow up healthy, and all women should have access to prenatal care. Having health insurance coverage through CHIP and Medicaid means children are more likely to access preventive care, immunizations, and treatments for asthma, autism, and hearing impairments. With health coverage, pregnant women can access the routine care and screenings necessary to ensure a healthy pregnancy. RPI children and pregnant women are aspiring U.S. citizens. It is critical that under S. 744, they have the opportunity to access cost-effective, affordable insurance coverage just like other lawfully-residing children and pregnant women.

Every adult was once a child, but unfortunately, not every child has the opportunity to become an adult. We thank you for recognizing the public health and financial benefit of ensuring that children are able to grow up healthy, which starts by ensuring that women have healthy pregnancies.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

9to5

Academic Pediatric Association

Advocates for Youth

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for a Just Society

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Medical Student Association

American Nurses Association

American Pediatric Society

American Public Health Association

Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian American Justice Center, Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center for Women Policy Studies

Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at University of California Berkeley School of Law

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Dental Health Project

Children's Health Fund

Children's Hospital Association

Coalition on Human Needs

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Community Action Partnership

CWLA

Families USA

First Focus Campaign for Children

Foster Family-based Treatment Association

Health Care for America Now

Healthy Teen Network

HIV Prevention Justice Alliance

Housing Works
Housing Works
International Tribunal of Conscience, U.S.
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Malaria, AIDS and Rights Organization (MATO)
March of Dimes
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Immigration Law Center
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Physicians Alliance
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
National Working Positive Coalition (NWAC)
New England Alliance for Children's Health, Community Catalyst
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Pre-Health Dreamers
Project Inform
Religious Institute
Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP)
RESULTS
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
The Children's Partnership
The Hat Project
The Young Center for Immigrant and Children's Rights
Turning Anger into Change
Unid@s, the National Latin@ LGBT Human Rights Organization
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

United for a Fair Economy (UFE)
Voices for America's Children
Women's Refugee Commission
ZERO TO THREE

State/Local Organizations

Arizona

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Phoenix
Asian Pacific Community in Action Phoenix

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Little Rock

California

Clinica Sierra Vista Bakersfield and Fresno
National Council of Jewish Women, Long Beach, CA Section Long Beach
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council Los Angeles
Black Women for Wellness Los Angeles
California Health Professional Student Alliance (CaHPSA) Los Angeles
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice Los Angeles
California Women's Law Center Los Angeles
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles Los Angeles
National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles Los Angeles
Public Counsel Los Angeles
Reproductive Justice Coalition of Los Angeles Los Angeles
Vision y Compromiso Los Angeles
Asian Health Services Oakland
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network Oakland
Street Level Health Project Oakland
Korean Community Center of the East Bay (KCCEB) Oakland
California Primary Care Association Sacramento
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Sacramento
California Immigrant Policy Center Sacramento, Los Angeles,
Oakland
Women's Health Specialists of California Sacramento
Christie's Place San Diego
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. San Diego
The Children's Advocacy Institute San Diego
La Raza Centro Legal San Francisco
Law Office of Peggy Bristol-Wright (representing minors in deportation
proceedings) San Francisco Bay Area
Asian Law Alliance San Jose
CLUE Santa Barbara Santa Barbara

Colorado

The Issue of Blood Outreach and Consulting Services

Denver

Connecticut

CT Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission

Hartford

CT Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Hartford

District of Columbia

DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington

Unitarian Universalist Association

Washington

Florida

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc

Apopka

Georgia

Latin American Association

Atlanta

Illinois

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Chicago

Kansas

Kansas Health Consumer Coalition

Topeka

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Lexington

KY Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Louisville

Maine

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Portland

Maryland

Public Justice Center

Baltimore

Massachusetts

Boston New Sanctuary Movement

Boston

Brazilian Women's Group

Boston

Dominican Development Center/Immigrant Learning Initiative

Boston

JOIN for Justice

Boston

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Boston

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Boston

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council

East Boston

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Waltham

Michigan

Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Lansing

Michigan League for Public Policy

Lansing

National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights	Lansing Ypsilanti
Minnesota Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	Saint Paul
Missouri McCrummen Immigration Law Group	North Kansas City
Nebraska Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community Voices for Children in Nebraska	Omaha Omaha
New Hampshire New Hampshire Pediatric Society (state chapter of AAP)	Exeter
New Jersey Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ	Highland Park
New Mexico New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) New Mexico Voices for Children Southwest Women's Law Center Somos un Pueblos	Albuquerque Albuquerque Albuquerque Santa Fe
New York DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving Coalition for Asian American Children & Families HIV Law Project Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center District 2 Chapter 3 AAP New York Immigration Coalition New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights Violence Intervention Program AAP New York Chapter 1 Worker Justice Center of New York Empire Justice Center	Jackson Heights New York New York New York New York New York New York New York New York Rochester Rochester White Plains
North Carolina North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Raleigh, NC
Ohio Central Ohio Immigrant Justice Ohio Council Of Churches	Columbus Columbus

Oregon

Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health

Portland

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition

Philadelphia

Rhode Island

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Providence

Tennessee

Tennessee Justice Center

Nashville

Texas

Texans Care for Children

Austin

North Dallas Chapter of National Organization for Women, Murphy TX

Murphy

Refugio del Rio Grande

San Benito

Utah

Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Salt Lake City

Virginia

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Richmond

Washington

Intercultural Commission of St. Thomas More Parish

Lynnwood

Children's Alliance

Seattle

Faith Action Network of Washington State

Seattle

Northwest Health Law Advocates

Seattle

OneAmerica

Seattle

Cambodian Women Networking Association

Tacoma

Tacoma Community House

Tacoma

CAFE Community for the Advancement of family Education

Wenatchee

Wisconsin

WI Council on Children and Families

Madison

Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

Madison