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
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
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Phoenix
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  Lansing
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights  Ypsilanti

**Minnesota**
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  Saint Paul

**Missouri**
McCrummen Immigration Law Group  North Kansas City

**Nebraska**
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  Omaha
Voices for Children in Nebraska  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)  Albuquerque
New Mexico Voices for Children  Albuquerque
Southwest Women's Law Center  Albuquerque
Somos un Pueblos  Santa Fe

**New York**
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  Jackson Heights
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families  New York
HIV Law Project  New York
Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center District 2 Chapter 3 AAP  New York
New York Immigration Coalition  New York
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  New York
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights  New York
Violence Intervention Program  New York
AAP New York Chapter 1  Rochester
Worker Justice Center of New York  Rochester
Empire Justice Center  White Plains

**North Carolina**
North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  Raleigh, NC

**Ohio**
Central Ohio Immigrant Justice  Columbus
Ohio Council Of Churches  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