

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
<b>Minnesota</b> Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	Saint Paul
<b>Missouri</b> McCrummen Immigration Law Group	North Kansas City
<b>Nebraska</b> Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community Voices for Children in Nebraska	Omaha Omaha
<b>New Hampshire</b> New Hampshire Pediatric Society (state chapter of AAP)	Exeter
<b>New Jersey</b> Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ	Highland Park
<b>New Mexico</b> New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) New Mexico Voices for Children Southwest Women's Law Center Somos un Pueblos	Albuquerque Albuquerque Albuquerque Santa Fe
<b>New York</b> 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
<b>North Carolina</b> North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Raleigh, NC
<b>Ohio</b> 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