

S. 453, the Children’s Health Insurance Program Pandemic Enhancement and Relief (CHIPPER) Act

Introduced by Senator Casey

Congress should take every step necessary to ensure the health and well-being of American children as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that we must promote access to comprehensive health insurance coverage that can protect their physical and mental well-being, such as the coverage provided through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Unfortunately, federal support for the CHIP program decreased in October of 2020 when an 11.5 percent enhanced federal match for CHIP came to an end.

It is unacceptable that federal support for CHIP declined during a pandemic. The CHIPPER Act will retroactively extend the enhanced federal match for CHIP through September 2022. This will allow the federal government to reimburse states for the months when they received a decrease in support, and allow the states to receive enhanced funding for an extra year as they grapple with the ongoing public health emergency. Under the CHIPPER Act, the retroactive extension of the enhanced match will apply to states that:

- Extend to their CHIP programs the same requirements that are in place for the enhanced federal match for Medicaid under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
- Eliminate waiting periods for CHIP enrollment; and
- Actively seek to re-enroll individuals who have been removed from CHIP coverage.

Ultimately, the CHIPPER Act will ensure that states that meet reasonable requirements to safeguard and expand enrollment during the National emergency receive appropriate federal support for their CHIP programs.

National Endorsements

American Academy of Pediatrics
Children’s Hospital Association
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
KidsPeace

State Endorsements

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Geisinger Janet Weis Children’s Hospital
Lehigh Valley Reilly Children’s Hospital
Pennsylvania CHIP
St. Luke’s University Health Network
UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

Cosponsorship

To cosponsor the CHIPPER Act, please contact Doug Hartman with Senator Bob Casey’s office at Doug_Hartman@help.senate.gov.