

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

As you know, Pennsylvania recently requested that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provide flexibility to continue the Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program (PA CHIP) and to exempt the state from having to transfer a significant portion of its enrollees into the Medicaid system. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Pennsylvania's CHIP kids would have to be added to the Medicaid roles. We do not believe that HHS intended for the implementation of the ACA to adversely impact children in our state; therefore, we respectfully request your immediate attention to this concern.

As members of the Pennsylvania Delegation, we are very concerned about the impact this change could have on health care services and access to high quality health providers. We often hear from our constituents that it is difficult to find high quality Medicaid providers; we believe adding more children to Medicaid when they already have adequate coverage through PA CHIP is unnecessary.

As a result of the ACA, the commonwealth has calculated that of the 187,000 current enrollees in PA CHIP approximately 70,000 enrollees will have to be transferred into the Medicaid program. We understand that on May 30, 2013, Governor Corbett wrote to you, renewing his request to continue the PA CHIP program. This bipartisan model was established in 1992, lent the framework for the federal law, and is widely recognized as a best practice in providing children with low-cost, market-based health insurance coverage.

Unlike most states, the commonwealth's program is based on a commercial product platform, rather than Medicaid, and provides a wide array of health insurance benefits and greater access to doctors and hospitals than traditional Medicaid. We echo the commonwealth's concerns that CHIP kids may not be able to stay with their current provider if moved to Medicaid.

We strongly support the state's request for added flexibility, in order to preserve the PA CHIP program. We ask that you work with the commonwealth to preserve this critical program in a way that works best for Pennsylvania's children. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,





Scott King

Joseph R. Pitts

Mike Kelly

Bell Shuster

Tim Murphy

~~Tom Marino~~

C. W. Ditt

Tom Marino

Pat Mulvaney

Scott Pitts