February 8, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of our nation’s children’s hospitals and the patients and families they serve, we are writing to thank you for making children a priority and including an additional four-year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the Senate’s continuing resolution (CR).

CHIP builds off of a strong Medicaid program to provide health coverage for millions of low-income children, and has worked with Medicaid to bring the rate of uninsured U.S. children to an all-time low, with 95 percent of all children covered. An extension of CHIP through 2027 will ensure that children who rely on this critical program are protected and will give states additional certainty and confidence to continue to innovate in their CHIP programs.

Children’s hospitals support the inclusion of additional funding for the Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP), including the new requirement for state reporting of the Child Core Set. The PQMP is the most significant federal investment in pediatric health care quality and is particularly vital in continuing improvements in health outcomes and lowering costs for families and purchasers of care. Children’s hospitals are also supportive of many other provisions of the CR, including the delay of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment cuts, funding for community health centers, continuation of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECV) and extension for Family-to-Family Health Information Centers.

Champions for Children’s Health
Thank you again for your leadership and support for CHIP. We look forward to working with you to strengthen and protect health care for all children into the future.

Very best regards,

M. James Kaufman, Ph.D.
Vice President, Public Policy
Children’s Hospital Association