



## The Senate's Continuing Resolution Offers New Hope to Children, Families and Communities

The bipartisan budget package expected to be voted on in the Senate today offers long overdue hope to children, families and communities.

The bipartisan budget package includes:

- An additional four years of funding for the **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, which assures a long-term commitment of 10 years and stabilizes comprehensive, affordable health coverage for nearly 9 million children and pregnant women.
- Five years of funding for the **Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Visitation Program (MIECHV)**, that has been without funding since September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Pregnant women and children under five benefit from these voluntary home visiting programs in every state and territory that help to improve maternal and newborn health, child development, school readiness, and family economic self-sufficiency and reduce child abuse and neglect, crime and domestic violence.
- Two years of funding for **Community Health Centers (CHCs)**, which offers children and their parents access to a continuum of quality health services. One in 10 children in America utilize CHCs for health care services.
- A doubling of funding in each of two years (an additional \$2.9 billion each year) for the **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** to help improve the quality and reach of child care to help parents work and promote children's healthy development.
- Long overdue reforms to help keep children safely with their families when they come to the attention of the child welfare system and to ensure that when placement away from their families is needed that they will be assured quality care in the most family like setting appropriate for their needs. The **Family First Prevention and Services Act** also offers new supports for preventing and treating families struggling with substance use disorders, including increased support for grandparents and other relatives who have reached out to care for children.

The bipartisan package also:

- Offers long overdue assistance in the aftermath of the hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Florida and Texas. This funding will bring relief to children and their parents; and finally, includes new Medicaid dollars to Puerto Rico.
- Adjusts the sequestration limits so that there will again be parity between defense and non-defense expenditures.

While we are encouraged by these critical steps forward for children in the Senate CR, **it is critically important that this package move forward with a real commitment in both the Senate and the House to also move forward and pass a bill that offers hope, protection from deportation and a path to citizenship for the nearly 800,000 current Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Dreamers and the more than one million additional Dreamers who could qualify but have not.** The threatening March 5<sup>th</sup> deadline for help to Dreamers looms. Their dreams must be protected and preserved.

**Remember too that for the hope to be realized, this package must be approved by the House and the Senate. The February 8<sup>th</sup> deadline is upon us. Positive steps must be taken for children and communities.**