

# SUPPORT THE KEEP KIDS COVERED ACT

U.S. Representative  
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## CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN IMPROVES OUTCOMES, LOWERS COSTS, AND HELPS FAMILIES

Continuous eligibility (CE) allows states to cover children in Medicaid and CHIP for a defined period of time without interruption, regardless of changes in circumstances.

**Positive effects** of health coverage, especially in a child's early years, include early detection of conditions through routine and comprehensive care, less chronic disease in adulthood, increased graduation rates, and reductions in mortality, emergency care usage, and hospitalizations.

According to **the CBO**, an additional year of childhood coverage improves labor outcomes in adulthood (higher future earnings and more productivity), which increases the return on investment, boosts the GDP, and has positive long-term fiscal effects.

Not only does continuous eligibility (CE) improve short- and long-term health outcomes, it reduces churn and financial barriers to care, promotes health equity, and is **cost-effective for families and states**.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Half of all children (**over 37 million**) are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP nationally.

Congressional Republicans' Big Ugly Bill puts children's health at risk. At President Trump's urging, they are cutting \$1 trillion in funding for Medicaid, CHIP and the Affordable Care Act and enacting policies that will **strip coverage from millions of children**.

The new law allows states to **impose arbitrary lock-out periods and annual & lifetime dollar limits** on benefits for children enrolled in CHIP. For a number of reasons, the harmful legislation will **jeopardize care** for all children.

During the Medicaid "unwinding," **nearly 5 million children** lost their health coverage, a 10% national decline. Many were disenrolled due to procedural or administrative reasons, not because they were no longer eligible. The Big Ugly Bill's new bureaucratic barriers will have the same devastating results.

Congress **enacted** a 12-month CE protection for children under age 19 in Medicaid and CHIP that began on January 1, 2024. This policy has benefitted **more than 17 million eligible children** in states that didn't previously have a 12-month CE policy. **13 states** currently have or are in the process of implementing multi-year CE coverage for children in order to lower costs and keeps kids healthy. Now, **President Trump wants to take that ability away**.

**Democrats Want to Expand Children's Health Coverage with Multi-Year CE for Eligible Children in Medicaid and CHIP until Age 6 & 24-Month CE for Children until Age 19.**

# Healthy Kids, Healthy Future.