



SUCCESSFUL KIDS: Protecting Health Care in Pennsylvania

Children who have health insurance are more likely to be immunized, receive regular check-ups and get prompt treatment for common childhood ailments, such as ear infections and asthma. Healthy kids are successful kids. They are more productive. They thrive in school.

They get to the finish line of their childhood ready to begin adulthood.

Pennsylvania has been a national leader in providing health care coverage for its children. The state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was one of the first of its kind in the country and served as a model for the federal government to provide funding for SCHIP in 1997.

Meet Sylvia from Lancaster County and Mary from Northampton County, mothers who rely on CHIP for peace of mind:

"CHIP provides me with the security every parent should have in knowing that if something ever happens to their child, medical expenses will not be an issue," Sylvia said.

"Without CHIP I don't know how we would be able to do it with this economy. With CHIP my kids got to keep our same doctor and dentist and are healthy because I am able to have them covered by insurance and take them when they are ill. I am so thankful for CHIP," Mary said.

According to the latest data, while the majority of kids in Pennsylvania have insurance through a parent's employer, CHIP and Medicaid insure many children whose parents either cannot afford private insurance or it isn't offered through their jobs. While federal health care reform prevents states from changing their rules now regarding who is eligible for coverage, some in Congress are trying to repeal the provision of health care reform that could result in states slashing their CHIP and Medicaid programs – *and kids losing coverage.*

Our members of Congress need to maintain the stability provisions in federal health care reform that protect children's health coverage. **Let's finish what we started and make sure *all* children have access to health insurance, not fewer kids. We *can* reach the finish line!**

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children - www.papartnerships.org – 717.236.5680