

CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 6, 2017

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

As a constituent and a local school superintendent, I strongly support extending the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which expired on September 30, 2017. If Congress does not act quickly to extend funding for CHIP, school districts will lose funding for the critical health services provided to low-income children that ensures they are healthy enough to learn. Any delay or failure to immediately extend funding for CHIP will jeopardize coverage for children who are eligible for school-based health-related services.

Listed below are a few bullet points explaining why CHIP provides such critical services:

- The CHIP program ensures low-income children are healthy enough to learn by covering basic health screening, immunizations and many other critical health services.
- Schools rely on CHIP funding to supplement the healthcare services they provide to students. If Congress does not act quickly to extend funding for CHIP then school districts will lose funding for the critical health services low-income children receive that ensure they are healthy enough to learn.
- More than half of the nearly nine million children served by CHIP are eligible to receive services in school through their state Medicaid programs.
- School districts depend on CHIP to finance many of these services and have already committed to the staff and contractors they require to provide mandated services for this current school year. The failure of Congress to continue funding CHIP would merely shift the financial burden of providing services to the schools and the state and local taxpayers who fund them.

I strongly urge you to support the bipartisan bill to extend the CHIP program for five years.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools