
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 622 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, BARBIN, BIZZARRO, BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, V. BROWN, BULLOCK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CEPHAS, COMMITTA, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, CRUZ, DALEY, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, DAWKINS, DEAN, DEASY, DeLISSIO, DERMODY, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, FABRIZIO, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GAINNEY, GALLOWAY, GOODMAN, HAGGERTY, HANNA, HARKINS, J. HARRIS, HILL-EVANS, KAVULICH, W. KELLER, KIM, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KRUEGER-BRANEKY, KULIK, LONGIETTI, MADDEN, MARKOSEK, McCARTER, McCLINTON, D. MILLER, MULLERY, NEILSON, NEUMAN, O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, PETRARCA, RABB, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SIMS, SNYDER, SOLOMON, STURLA, THOMAS, VITALI, WARREN, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 5, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 5, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Children's Health
2 Insurance Program and the important physical and behavioral
3 health benefits the program provides to children of this
4 Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program
6 (CHIP) was established in 1992 under the Casey Administration to
7 provide coverage for uninsured children of Pennsylvania who are
8 low income but above the qualifying income levels for Medicaid;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997
11 (Public Law 105-33, 111 Stat. 251), the Federal CHIP program was
12 established and now provides health insurance to 9 million
13 children and pregnant women across this country; and

1 WHEREAS, CHIP is a program for families that cannot afford
2 private health insurance, but are above the qualifying income
3 levels for Medicaid; and

4 WHEREAS, CHIP has three categories for qualification,
5 including free CHIP, partial-pay CHIP and full-cost CHIP; and

6 WHEREAS, Without the three-category approach, many children
7 would have fallen through the cracks; and

8 WHEREAS, There are currently 178,000 children enrolled in
9 CHIP and families rely on health insurance to provide for the
10 health and developmental needs of children and to have access to
11 pediatric services; and

12 WHEREAS, CHIP allows for year-round enrollment so that
13 eligible children can sign up at any time, and the program caps
14 a family's out-of-pocket expenses at a 5% cost sharing of total
15 income; and

16 WHEREAS, CHIP has a proven track record of providing high-
17 quality, cost-effective coverage for low-income children in
18 working families and is a model program that has reduced the
19 numbers of uninsured children to historic lows; and

20 WHEREAS, The Federal Government currently provides 89% of the
21 funding for Pennsylvania's CHIP; and

22 WHEREAS, Funding for CHIP must be continued and now is the
23 time for leaders of the Congress of the United States to make
24 CHIP a top priority, before Federal funding expires; and

25 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must also reauthorize the CHIP
26 program before December 31, 2017, to continue to operate the
27 program that is vital to the families of this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, If the General Assembly does not reauthorize the
29 CHIP program, the health care of 178,000 children in this
30 Commonwealth will be put in jeopardy; and

1 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania established its CHIP program five years
2 before the Federal program; and

3 WHEREAS, As a leader in providing children of vulnerable
4 populations with health insurance, it is an incumbent
5 responsibility of the General Assembly to continue to provide
6 CHIP for all children who qualify; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the 25th anniversary of
9 the Children's Health Insurance Program and the important
10 physical and behavioral health benefits the program provides to
11 children of this Commonwealth; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States and the
13 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pass the
14 appropriate legislation in order to effectuate the mission of
15 this important program; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
18 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.