

Congress votes to reauthorize CHIP funding for six years

Money for CHIP was included in legislation that Congress passed to fund the government through February 8

Why did it take so long to reauthorize CHIP funding?

- Lawmakers have been **unable to agree on how to pay for CHIP and Community Health Center (CHC) funding**
 - CHCs are still not funded under the short-term spending bill
- Democrats opposed a proposal that passed the House in November because it cut Medicare and ACA funding to offset the cost of CHIP
- This time around, **Democrats refused to support a short-term spending bill** until Congress developed a plan for immigrant children who are no longer protected by DACA



New CBO report made it easier for Republicans to include CHIP funding in the latest spending bill

In a letter to Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), CBO Director Keith Hall wrote that **funding CHIP for 10 years would “decrease the deficit by [approximately] \$6.0 billion over the 2018-2027 period”**

- The CBO also explained that due to the repeal of the ACA’s individual mandate, reauthorizing CHIP funding for five years would **cost only \$800 million**, a far drop from the earlier estimate of \$8.2 billion

CHIP

- Began in 1997
- Provides coverage to 9 million children in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance

Prior funding for CHIP expired on October 1, 2017

- A temporary spending bill in December allocated an additional \$2.85 billion, which was supposed to carry states through March 2018, but many states began to run out of funding soon after the bill was passed