



January 10, 2018

Colleagues:

On December 21, 2017, just before adjourning for recess, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government in operation through January 19, 2018. As part of this legislation, Congress temporarily extended Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding through March 31, 2018.

CHIP and several other expired health programs impact Jewish federation partner agencies and the people we serve, such as vulnerable children, people with disabilities, and older adults.

It is critical for Jewish federations and our partner agencies to urge Members of Congress to extend these vital health and long-term care programs as soon as possible.

Please use the talking points below and contact your Representatives and Senators today by [clicking here](#) or by calling (202) 224-3121 to advocate for the following programs to be included as part of a bipartisan legislative package known as "Health Extenders":

- Congress Should Pass a Five-Year Extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP): Congressional action is needed to continue funding for CHIP past its temporary extension of March 31, 2018. CHIP provides health insurance coverage to approximately 9 million children from families with low to modest incomes. A five-year CHIP extension has significant bipartisan support. Click [here](#) for more information on CHIP.
- Congress Should Pass a Permanent Solution for the Medicare Therapy Caps: These detrimental caps impose limits on services often needed by older adults, such as physical and occupational therapy. Congress' last

moratorium on the caps expired on December 31<sup>st</sup> and they are now in effect. These caps would force nearly one million Medicare beneficiaries to pay 100% of the cost of their care over the caps, or ration their care to avoid exhausting their benefits. Congress has stopped the therapy caps from going into effect for the last 20 years, but only on a short-term basis. Click [here](#) for more information on Medicare Therapy caps.

- Congress Should Pass a Long-Term Extension of the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV): The bipartisan MIECHV program expired on September 30, 2017. Established in 2010, the program provides home visits by nurses, mental health clinicians, and others to at-risk mothers and their children to support the healthy development of infants and toddlers. MIECHV has been successful in bringing state and locally-based, cost-effective care to these vulnerable families. Click [here](#) for more information on MIECHV.
- Congress Should Extend the Money Follows the Person Program (MFP): The bipartisan MFP program, signed into law in 2005 by President George W. Bush, enabled 75,000 individuals with chronic conditions and disabilities to transition from institutionalized settings to their homes and communities. MFP's authorization expired on September 30, 2016. JFNA is urging Congress to extend this valuable and cost-effective program that has helped so many people with disabilities and older adults move back to their homes and communities. Click [here](#) for more information on MFP.
- Congress Should Delay Cuts to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments: Safety net hospitals, which provide significant uncompensated care to uninsured and underinsured patients, need Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments to help offset these unreimbursed expenses. Congress has acted several times to stop cuts to DSH payments from going into effect, and needs to do so once again. The last moratorium on the cuts expired on September 30, 2017. JFNA is urging Congress to stop the Medicaid DSH cuts and protect safety net hospitals' ability to continue caring for vulnerable populations in their communities. Click [here](#) for more information on cuts to DSH payments.

Tell your Members of Congress to act on *all* of these important health care issues as they continue to work to fund the federal government past January 19<sup>th</sup>. For a sample letter, click [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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Thank you for your leadership and activism on these critical issues.

Best,

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