

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Hearing on “The Future of the Children’s Health Insurance Program”**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
**December 3, 2014**

Today’s hearing is about the Children’s Health Insurance Program. This is a rare program in Washington that has enjoyed bipartisan support since its inception in 1997. I am pleased that the Committee is again proceeding in a bipartisan fashion – first with our letter to the Governors, and now with this hearing.

I strongly support an additional four years of funding for the CHIP program. The evidence both from the state letters and independent research shows that CHIP provides both benefit and cost sharing protections that are critical for children, but are not guaranteed in the new health marketplaces or employer sponsored coverage. For the peace of mind of families and ease of administration and certainty for states, I believe that a longer time period allows for needed stability.

That’s why I cosponsored Ranking Member Pallone’s bill, H.R. 5364, that would provide four years of funding, and also give states flexibilities to make important program improvements, like making express lane eligibility a permanent option for states looking to reduce bureaucracy and improve the enrollment process.

I hope that our colleagues on both sides of the Committee will give the bill a serious look. It is balanced and fair and there is a lot to like for both states and beneficiaries.

CHIP is only one piece of the health care system for children. Medicaid covers more than four times the number of children that CHIP does, \$38 million in all. And with the new marketplaces and delivery system reform initiatives such as medical homes, there are many positive developments to improve care for children. We have reduced uninsurance to a record low among children. But there is more work to be done. No matter where a child receives coverage, we need to ensure that it is comprehensive, child-focused, and affordable for all families.

I also want to take a moment to honor one of the original authors of the CHIP program, Senator Jay Rockefeller, who is retiring this year. Senator Rockefeller fought tirelessly to get the CHIP program established, and he fought tirelessly to defend the program and strengthen it

during reauthorization. Millions of children have better lives because of his work. I know that he hoped to see the program put on a stable funding path prior to his retirement at the end of this Congress. I would like to have his statement on the CHIP program inserted in the record for this hearing.