August 24, 2017

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Delegation:

The undersigned Wisconsin professional organizations and pediatric healthcare providers write to express our support for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a critical source of federal funding for BadgerCare Plus, and urge you to take action in September to ensure that continued federal funding for CHIP is enacted.

In Wisconsin, BadgerCare Plus is an essential source of coverage for children living in low-income and working families. Through a combination of federal Medicaid, CHIP and state match funds, BadgerCare Plus serves over 450,000 children, providing access to high-quality, affordable and appropriate pediatric health care. This includes a benefit design and provider network tailored to meet children’s unique needs, including access to dental and mental health and long-term care benefits.

Congress needs to act quickly to extend CHIP funding before the program’s funding expiration at the end of September. Importantly, the Wisconsin state budget for fiscal year 2017-2019 assumes continuation of current law funding for this important program. Should Congress fail to authorize additional CHIP allotments, the impact on our state program would be substantial,
with estimated costs as much as $113 million for the state fiscal year 2018-2019.\textsuperscript{1} We are concerned that shortfalls of this magnitude could lead to program changes or cuts that would jeopardize access to care for our children and families. We ask you to support an extension of CHIP as soon as possible to ensure families and states alike can be assured their children’s coverage will be protected.

Sincerely,

American Family Children’s Hospital
Ascension
Aurora Health Care
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
Hospital Sisters Health System
Marshfield Children's Hospital
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Medical College of Wisconsin
UW Health
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Hospital Association
Wisconsin Medical Society

\textsuperscript{1} Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Medical Assistance Cost-to-Continue (Health Services-Medicaid Services), Paper #320, page 9, May 25, 2017.