**WHAT IT DOES:**

- **8.9 million** children

The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), created 20 years ago, covers 8.9 million children with family incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits who lack access to affordable private coverage.

- CHIP is authorized by Congress to operate until **October 1, 2019**.
- However, legislative action is needed to continue funding for CHIP beyond **September 2017**.
- Failure to extend CHIP funding could result in coverage losses for millions of children and increased financial pressure for states that may lead to reductions in eligibility and benefits.
- Efforts to support CHIP **should not reduce funding** for other health care programs.

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**WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:**

- Medicaid and CHIP provide health coverage for **nearly 4 out of 10 children in the U.S.**
- Studies show that children on CHIP receive **more comprehensive benefits at lower costs** than with private health insurance.
- Improved health among children translates into **educational gains**, with **positive implications for both individual economic well-being and overall economic productivity**.

The nation’s uninsured rate for children is a **record low of 5%** due in part to Medicaid and CHIP coverage.