RESOLUTION ON THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, began in 1997 to provide health insurance coverage for children in families that did not qualify for Medicaid but could not afford private insurance; and

WHEREAS, states receive a matching rate for the Children’s Health Insurance Program greater than their Medicaid program's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP; and

WHEREAS, Congress increased the matching rate for the Children’s Health Insurance Program by 23 percentage points in the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, or ARRA, in recognition of the importance of health insurance coverage for children; and

WHEREAS, 8.9 million children receive health insurance through the Children’s Health Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, the CHIP program has been credited with reducing the rate of uninsured children from 14 percent in 1997 to 7 percent in 2012; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for the CHIP program has not been appropriated for 2018 or beyond; and

WHEREAS, states adopted budgets for 2018 during their 2016 or 2017 legislative sessions assuming that federal funds for CHIP would be appropriated; and

WHEREAS, states are taking steps to suspend CHIP coverage for their constituents as early as Jan. 1, 2018, as federal funding is exhausted in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, 27 states will likely exhaust funding in the first quarter of 2018 according to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges Congress to appropriate funds and the President to sign into law federal funding for the CHIP program that maintains the current enhanced matching rate, or failing that, allows for a gradual phase-out of the increased matching rate provided by ARRA in 2009.

Adopted by The Council of State Governments’ Executive Committee this 16th Day of December, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.