

CHIP PERMANENT: IT'S A MATTER OF FAIRNESS



Background

For almost 25 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has been an essential source of children's coverage, ensuring access to high-quality, affordable, pediatric-appropriate health care for children in working families whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private health insurance on their own.

CHIP has played a critical role in reducing the number of uninsured children by more than 68 percent, from an uninsurance rate of nearly 15 percent in 1997 to less than five percent in 2016, while improving health outcomes and access to care for children and pregnant women. CHIP, together with Medicaid, plays a particularly important role for children of color: in the first 6 months of 2020, more than half of Black, multi-racial, and Hispanic children relied on Medicaid and CHIP as their source of health coverage.¹

CHIP must be permanently funded now.

CHIP is the only federal health insurance program that is temporary and up for repeated extensions. This would not be allowed to happen to Medicare, FEHBP, etc. Instead we only subject kids to this uncertainty and a funding cliff during most extensions. Making CHIP permanent is a matter of fairness.

CHIP has repeatedly been threatened.

Over the last few funding cycles, CHIP has been threatened, held hostage and used as a bargaining chip for other policies that had nothing to do with children. It's been vetoed twice and unfunded for four months—leading families across the country to receive disenrollment notices. CHIP should never be threatened again.

Permanently funding CHIP is a cost saver.

Making CHIP funding permanent scores as a saver if it's done now. If it's not funded again until 2026, it will cost billions and will be under threat again.

Current events call for permanent CHIP funding.

We should shore up all protections of child and maternal health post-Dobbs. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Children deserve and need their health coverage to be stable, secure and dependable.

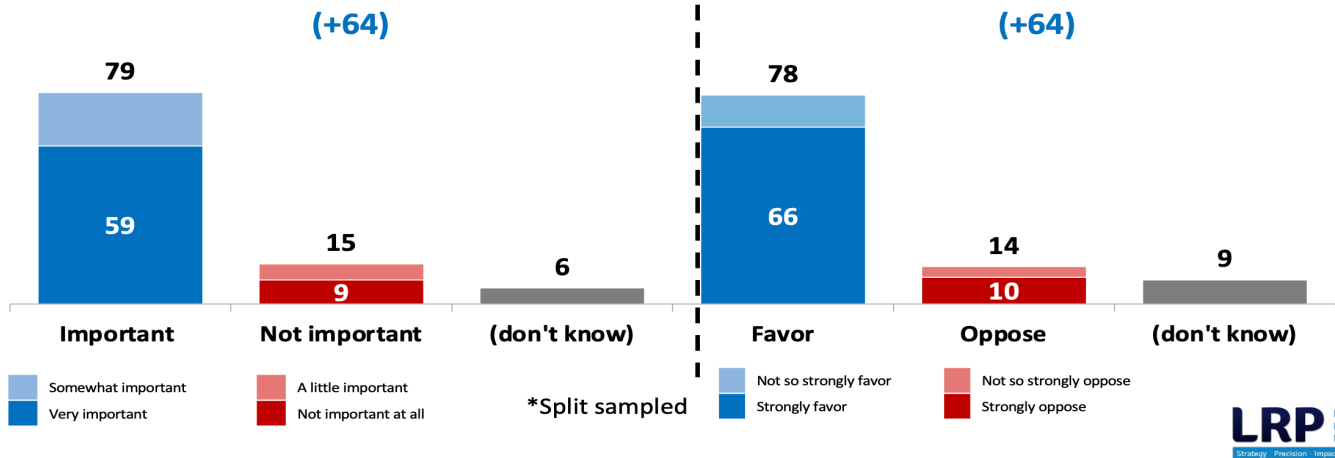
CHIP is extremely popular.

Lake Research did a poll in May 2022 that found the public strongly favors making CHIP permanent (78-14%). In focus groups, people cannot believe that the program is not permanent and express deep concern that it could expire. The Lake Research Partners poll asked voters how important (salience) CHIP permanency was to them, and the majority responded it was important (79-15%).

There is strong support for CHIP – both in terms of support and salience.

Now for something different. The Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP, which provides children with health insurance who are not covered by their parents is set to expire unless Congress acts to continue the program. How important is it for Congress to permanently fund CHIP?*

Now for something different. The Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP, which provides children with health insurance who are not covered by their parents is set to expire unless Congress acts to continue the program. Do you favor or oppose that Congress make CHIP a permanent health insurance program?*



Across party identification, voters favor making CHIP a permanent health insurance programs. Democrats (94-2%) Independents (78-13%), and Republicans (60-26%). Women favor making CHIP permanent by an 83-7% margin and men do so at 72-21%. By wide margins, white (76-15%), Black (90-6%), and Hispanic (83-11%) likely voters favor making CHIP permanent.

1. Cohen, Robin A., et al. "Health insurance coverage: early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January–June 2020," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Feb. 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur202102-508.pdf>