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California Children’s Health Coalition Applaud Defeat of Harmful Senate Health Plan
Advocates commit to remain vigilant against efforts to jeopardize health coverage for California children and families

LOS ANGELES, CA – In response to the Senate vote to reject the “skinny repeal” of the Affordable Care Act, the California Children’s Health Coverage Coalition expressed relief that the U.S. Senate failed to pass any of their proposed health care plans that would have made millions more Americans uninsured and put our children in harm’s way.

“Families across the nation can breathe a sigh of relief today that the Senate Republican plan to decimate Medicaid and repeal the Affordable Care Act has been defeated – for now. Tonight, we celebrate the relentless advocacy of parents, children, and supporters across the nation who shared stories of the devastating impact of the proposal bill and called their members of Congress to urge them to vote against any plan that would harm children. We must remain vigilant and continue to fight against any proposed changes that would jeopardize the health of America’s children,” said Shimica Gaskins, executive director of Children’s Defense Fund-California.

“Every single version of the Senate majority’s health bill has included the same core flaws: drastically cutting the Medicaid program and putting coverage at risk for 5 million children in California, raising premiums and deductibles for those who buy coverage in the individual marketplace and gutting consumer protections. We commend California Senators Feinstein and Harris for their continued votes against the bill and continued commitment to fighting for to protect health coverage for children and families. We also thank Senators Collins, McCain, and Murkowski for joining the minority in protecting the health care of millions and asking for the return to normal order,” said Pete Manzo, president and CEO of United Ways of California.

“Given the widespread public disapproval of the Senate majority’s health care bills and consensus among the health care community of the harms of radically cutting Medicaid and repealing key protections in the Affordable Care Act, now is the time for Senate leadership to give up on this misguided bill and commit to working in a bipartisan manner to improve affordability and access to health coverage for Americans.”

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The Children’s Health Coverage Coalition includes Children Now, Children’s Defense Fund-California, The Children’s Partnership, and United Ways of California. Follow the Coalition on Twitter or tumblr @KidsHealthCA.