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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

August 29, 2017

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I have sent the enclosed letters on behalf of the County to Chairman Walden and Ranking Minority Member Pallone of the Energy and Commerce Committee, urging them to take action on legislation to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.

CHIP funding enables children in families with incomes up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level to be covered under Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Currently, it provides 11,000 children in Santa Barbara County with comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage for a modest monthly premium and co-pays. It also provides benefits for certain pregnant women to receive health care during their pregnancy. MIECHV supports the California Home Visiting Program and provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children. In 2015, the program increased the number of target women screened for postpartum depression from 80% to 94%, and screened 98% of target women for domestic violence within 6 months of enrollment.

CHIP and MIECHV are currently reauthorized through the end of FY 2017. If these programs are not reauthorized before it expires on September 30, it would cause a devastating loss of coverage for many children both locally and nationwide. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the committee to take action to reauthorize CHIP and MIECHV as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:awg