December 6, 2017

Hon. Senator Michael Bennet  
1127 Sherman St., Suite 150  
Denver, CO 80203

Senator Bennet:

We write today to encourage you to support the reauthorization of funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC), Colorado’s statewide advisory council on early childhood, serves as the statewide leader subject matter expert, and champion of practices that support our state’s children to be healthy, valued and thriving.

We know that children who are healthy are better prepared to learn and have stronger wellbeing and developmental outcomes throughout their lives.

Increased access to care through the Medicaid expansion and the establishment of the Colorado’s Health Insurance Marketplace has led Colorado to witness historic amounts of the children and families who are able to access preventive care, better preparing them to enter school ready to learn and grow to reach their full potential.

Without federal funding to continue to support this program, nearly 75,000 children and 800 pregnant women will lose coverage in January 2018, effecting families in every single one of Colorado’s 64 counties.

We implore you to support the reauthorization of funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program so that the children and families in Colorado do not lose the coverage they need.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Donna Lynne  Barbara Grogan  Anna Jo Haynes