Pennsylvania’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program provides health coverage for uninsured children and teenagers not eligible for Medicaid, up to age 19. The program provides comprehensive coverage for checkups, immunizations, hospital care, and mental health services.

While the number of children covered by Pennsylvania’s CHIP has changed, overall the percent of children insured in the state has remained high.

CHIP has been an effective program in decreasing the number of uninsured children since its creation in 1997. With implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the CHIP program underwent eligibility changes—children in families with an income below 138 percent of the federal poverty level moved from CHIP to Medicaid. Subsequent to those changes in 2014, Pennsylvania has seen a 19 percent increase in CHIP enrollment from July 2015 to August 2017.

Pennsylvania has seen a 4.1 percent growth in CHIP enrollment this year.

CHIP is a major insurer for children in Pennsylvania. Congress needs to provide stability for low-income children and families by extending funding for CHIP.