

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address January 12, 2018

### Setting the Record on CHIP

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This past week, Congress returned to Washington to face important legislative priorities and deadlines. On weeks like these, it is easy to get lost in the many headlines coming out of the Capitol. However, I want to use this time to bring your attention to a story that, I believe, has not received enough attention.

One deadline we're facing is our responsibility to fund the state Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP became law more than 20 years ago and serves as a way to help low income children to receive health care.

Late last fall, the funding for CHIP expired. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, I authored a bill to fund CHIP for five years. With responsible funding offsets, the CHIP bill that passed out of my committee would ensure that children retain their coverage without adding to the national debt. This legislation passed the House with bipartisan support on November 3, 2017. Since then, we have been waiting for the Senate to act. We have passed short term solutions to make sure children don't lose access while the Senate delays. Remember, while the Republicans do hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate, the Senate rules require 60 votes to proceed. As of yet, no Democrat has been willing to vote for this bill.

This issue hits close to home. In Texas, more than 400,000 children rely on the state Children's Health Insurance Program for their medical coverage. In Denton County alone, there are 8,000 children who are counting on CHIP. In Tarrant County, that number is 32,000. Across the nation, millions of families are concerned that their children will lose coverage. This is unnecessary, this is unacceptable, and this is astonishingly cruel.

While Texas has the resources to keep children insured while Congress finds a longer-term solution, other states are not so lucky. I am calling on the Minority Leader of the Senate, Senator Schumer, and his fellow Democratic senators to stop hiding behind Senate rules and vote on this bill.

It's time that we set the record straight, and urge the Senate Democrats to stop playing politics with American children.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.