Preserve COFA Health and Dental Coverage and the Children’s Health Program

The COVID-19 pandemic is no time to cut health care for kids, families and communities.

“Like you, we pay taxes. We work. And many of our people serve in the US military. We raise our kids like you, but without preventative health care treatment, many of us are dying, and dying young.”

--Jiji Jally, Marshallese Women’s Association, Auburn

“One community member that I helped assist in navigating the health care system had a painful chronic illness that prevented him from walking, and therefore from working. Treatment could resolve the pain, but he was unable to afford even the cost of transportation and parking. Because of his illness he was unable to support his family. You can see how it becomes a snowballing effect.”

--Robin Narruhn, Public Health – Seattle & King County

“I have a granddaughter, she is 14 years old. She relies on me. I have to work, I have to stay healthy. I have not had health insurance for many years, almost eight years right now. I just have to hope that I stay healthy enough to work and care for her. If I become sick, what will happen to her?”

--Thompson Keju, Auburn
Between 2008 and 2016, the uninsured rate dropped from 18% to 4% for Latino/a children, from 9% to 2% for Asian Pacific Islander children, from 9% to 1% for Black children, from 9% to 3% for multiracial children, and from 6% to 2% for White children.

Children need health coverage in order to receive preventive and early intervention services that support their wellbeing and their right to thrive. All children deserve health care.

Any cuts to our state’s health care coverage system during the pandemic will devastate our communities, exacerbate health inequities, and endanger public health.

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