



# SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

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Chairman Bob Casey

## **The Medicaid for Every Child Act**

*Introduced by Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)*

### **Why do we need the *Medicaid for Every Child Act*?**

All children deserve access to quality health care. Public policy should ensure that children benefit from the dramatic advances in acute and preventive care. As of May 2023, [almost 42 million](#) children in the United States were insured through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – the vast majority in Medicaid. During the COVID public health emergency, states were required to keep children and adults covered by Medicaid or CHIP, and enrollment grew substantially. From February 2020 through June 2021, children's enrollment increased by 11 percent. While work to redetermine eligibility over the coming months as part of the unwinding of the public health emergency, it remains critical that children are able to access the quality health care they require to grow and thrive.

### **What would the *Medicaid for Every Child Act* do?**

The *Medicaid for Every Child Act* would make all children through age 18 eligible for coverage under Medicaid. Children would be automatically enrolled at birth and would retain that eligibility until the age of 18, with no redetermination requirement. Parents could proactively opt their child out of Medicaid if they have another form of coverage, such as being eligible for CHIP, securing coverage through the marketplace, or having coverage through their employer. The federal government would cover the cost of this Medicaid population with a 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). CHIP is currently authorized through FY 2029, and the existing maintenance-of-effort requirement would keep CHIP as an option for families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level who prefer CHIP to the new Medicaid benefit.