

HB 2127 Prevents an Automatic KidsCare Freeze

KidsCare is Arizona's State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing high quality, affordable coverage to children in working families. Enrolled families choose their own doctor from private health plans and pay affordable monthly premiums.

Arizona froze enrollment in KidsCare in 2010 and became the only state without a functioning CHIP program until the legislature and Governor Ducey lifted the freeze in 2016 with broad bipartisan support. Today, more than 24,000 Arizona children are covered through KidsCare.

How Can We Keep KidsCare for Arizona Families?

Arizona's law has a trigger that immediately freezes KidsCare if federal funding dips below 100%. HB 2127 puts control back in the hands of the Arizona legislature and bases enrollment on the combination of federal resources plus any future appropriations of state dollars. KidsCare is not an entitlement and the state could renew a freeze if enrollment surpasses available funds.

Governor Ducey has established a temporary funding plan to sustain KidsCare while we wait for Congress to renew the federal funding. HB 2127 allows the state to build on this plan to sustain KidsCare into the future.

Why do Arizona Families Need KidsCare?

- 1. KidsCare improves the health and lives of thousands of Arizona Kids.**
Parents can take their child to see a doctor or a dentist and get the healthcare they need to learn and grow up healthy, such as check-ups, immunizations, eye glasses, and asthma medication.
- 2. KidsCare covers many children with complex health needs.**
Families of children with special healthcare needs, such as a congenital heart condition or autism, face overwhelming costs and barriers.
- 3. KidsCare prevents the need for foster care and helps foster children transitioning back home.**
KidsCare provides families access to key behavioral health services that keep children safe and families together.
- 4. KidsCare makes economic sense.**
Research from the Harvard Business School finds that families with CHIP coverage had a 23% higher rate of self-employment and a 31% higher rate of ownership of incorporated businesses. Researchers at ASU found that uninsured children do not get as much regular medical care, resulting in costly emergency room use.

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