

# KIDSCARE/CHIP FACT SHEET

CURRENT BILLS AS OF 1/28/19: HB2350, HB2515, SB1134

**THE ARIZONA NURSES ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT WILL CONTINUE KIDSCARE**

## Background

KidsCare is Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing high quality, health coverage to children in working families.

KidsCare was designed for families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid/AHCCCS but struggle to afford private health insurance. All parents contribute affordable monthly premiums and can choose their own doctor and dentist.

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, almost 35,000 Arizona children are covered through KidsCare, but this coverage is once again at risk. State law has an automatic trigger to freeze KidsCare when the federal funding drops below 100%, which will happen on October 1, 2019. Most of these children will not have other options for health coverage and our rate of uninsured children will rise.

## Why Arizona Nurses Association Supports 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, and eye glasses, they can get care for complex health conditions such as autism or congenital heart disease.
- 2. KidsCare helps children succeed in school and life.** Research shows that children who have access to Medicaid and CHIP miss fewer school days, do better in school overall, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, and become more economically independent adults.
- 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.

Source: Fact Sheet, CoverKids Coalition, January 2019  
<http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/January-2019-KidsCare-Trigger-Fact-Sheet-WEBSITE.pdf>