ADDRESSING COVERAGE LOSSES AMONG KIDS

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Benefits of Health Coverage

• Insured children are less likely to postpone care, resulting in fewer preventable hospitalizations and missed diagnoses.

• Coverage increases the likelihood of high school and college completion.

• Uninsured women are more likely to have adverse maternal outcomes and complications.
National Coverage Trends and Losses

- The national child uninsured rate rose to 5.7% in 2019, amounting to 4.4 million children nationwide.

- Since 2017, the Latino child uninsured rate has risen from a low of 7.7% to 9.2% in 2019.

- In 2018, the gap between health coverage rates for Latino children and all children widened for the first time in a decade.
Utah Sees Steady Uptick of Uninsured Kids

Utah has:

• One of the highest rates of uninsured children in the nation, 82,000 children (8%)

• The 7th highest rate of uninsured Hispanic/Latinx children in the nation (17%)

• The highest rate of children currently eligible for health insurance, but not enrolled
Medicaid Expansion’s Effect on Kids

- Medicaid Expansion (passed via ballot initiative in 2018)
- Medicaid enrollment increased **33.3%** in Utah since March 2020, the second highest increase in the nation
- For the first time in several years, CHIP enrollment began to increase
Preparing for the Public Health Emergency to End

• All states have had artificially high Medicaid enrollment because the federal government incentivized states to provide continuous coverage throughout the Public Health Emergency.

• Utah provided continuous coverage to CHIP as well, and lost 41% of CHIP enrollees after unwinding that policy.

• States should prepare now for their Medicaid populations to lose access to continuous coverage.

• States with CHIP premiums and/or no continuous eligibility for kids on Medicaid and/or CHIP should prepare now to preserve kids’ access to coverage.
What Can Regulators Do?

• Improve policy – through Medicaid and CHIP and private coverage

• Improve outreach – government officials and community-based groups

• Welcoming rhetoric
Questions