



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW · Suite 312 · Washington, DC 20036 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · www.chn.org

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Contact: Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director
dweinstein@chn.org; mobile: 301-873-1324

President Trump Forced the Shutdown; Congress Must Act by Helping Those Most in Need

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, issued this statement:

“President Trump told Congressional leaders he wanted a “bill of love” to provide assured legal status for the Dreamers. But his erratic swings in position wrecked negotiations over the package needed to avert a government shutdown. Congress must now finish its job of coming to an agreement that protects children, Dreamers, disaster victims, and others in urgent need.

“We applaud those who voted against the proposed Continuing Resolution, because it left out so many of the most vulnerable. Yes, children desperately need renewal of the Children’s Health Insurance Program; it is unconscionable that its renewal has been delayed to the point that states are notifying terrified families that their coverage may end. But a great nation must not ignore or worsen the desperation of any people in urgent need. Emergency conditions persist in Puerto Rico; their Medicaid funds will soon run out. Community health centers and the successful home visiting program for new mothers and their babies must also be renewed. Every day, 122 Dreamers lose their legal status; their solution is needed now. In the fourth month of the fiscal year, we still do not have an agreement to lift spending caps to adequate levels, so that we can better protect public health, fund education, and address the shortages of affordable housing and child care.

“Bipartisan negotiations appeared to be making progress. Congressional leaders should complete that work to enact a package that meets urgent needs. Their immediate action is the only responsible course.”