



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 5, 2016

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### **Arizona reinstates KidsCare health insurance program**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Earlier this year, the state of Arizona restored the “KidsCare – Arizona’s Children’s Health Insurance Program,” which allows children in families to receive health care coverage if they do not meet the below-income guidelines to receive Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System benefits, also known as Medicaid, or cannot afford health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

On July 26, the AZ KidsCare program began accepting applications for coverage that will begin on Sept. 1. In 2010, the state of Arizona suspended the insurance program due to the onset of the recession at the time and had to endure funding cuts.

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee chair Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said the AZ KidsCare insurance program is an opportunity for Navajo families to obtain health care coverage for their children for services that the Indian Health Services and Public Law 93-638 providers do not offer.

“In today’s world, we have sicknesses that require medical specialists not available on the Navajo Nation, and it can be difficult for families to cover those costs when those situations occur,” said Delegate Hale. “So I want to encourage families to look into the KidsCare program and utilize their services for the purpose of wellness and health coverage security for their children.”

Delegate Hale added that studies have illustrated that children with ample health care coverage are more likely to succeed in school because of increased physical wellness, acquire less sick days, and decreases the risk for developmental issues.

For more information on applying for the “KidsCare – Arizona’s Children’s Health Insurance Program” and eligibility requirements, please visit the website at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/GetCovered/Categories/KidsCare.html>

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