

Dismayed by Failure to Fund Kids' Healthcare

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congress needs to reauthorize a federal healthcare program for children called the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP to help low and middle income families. That was the rally cry last Friday as a group of Oregon elected officials joined the public for a demonstration on the steps of the World Trade Center in downtown Portland.

The lawmakers included Oregon Democrats, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, Gov. Kate Brown, and U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici.

About 9 million children across the country, including over 100,000 in Oregon and over 23,000 in Portland, benefit from CHIP coverage. Congress' reauthorization of the funding for the program is now over 100 days past due, legislation that has traditionally seen bi-partisan support.

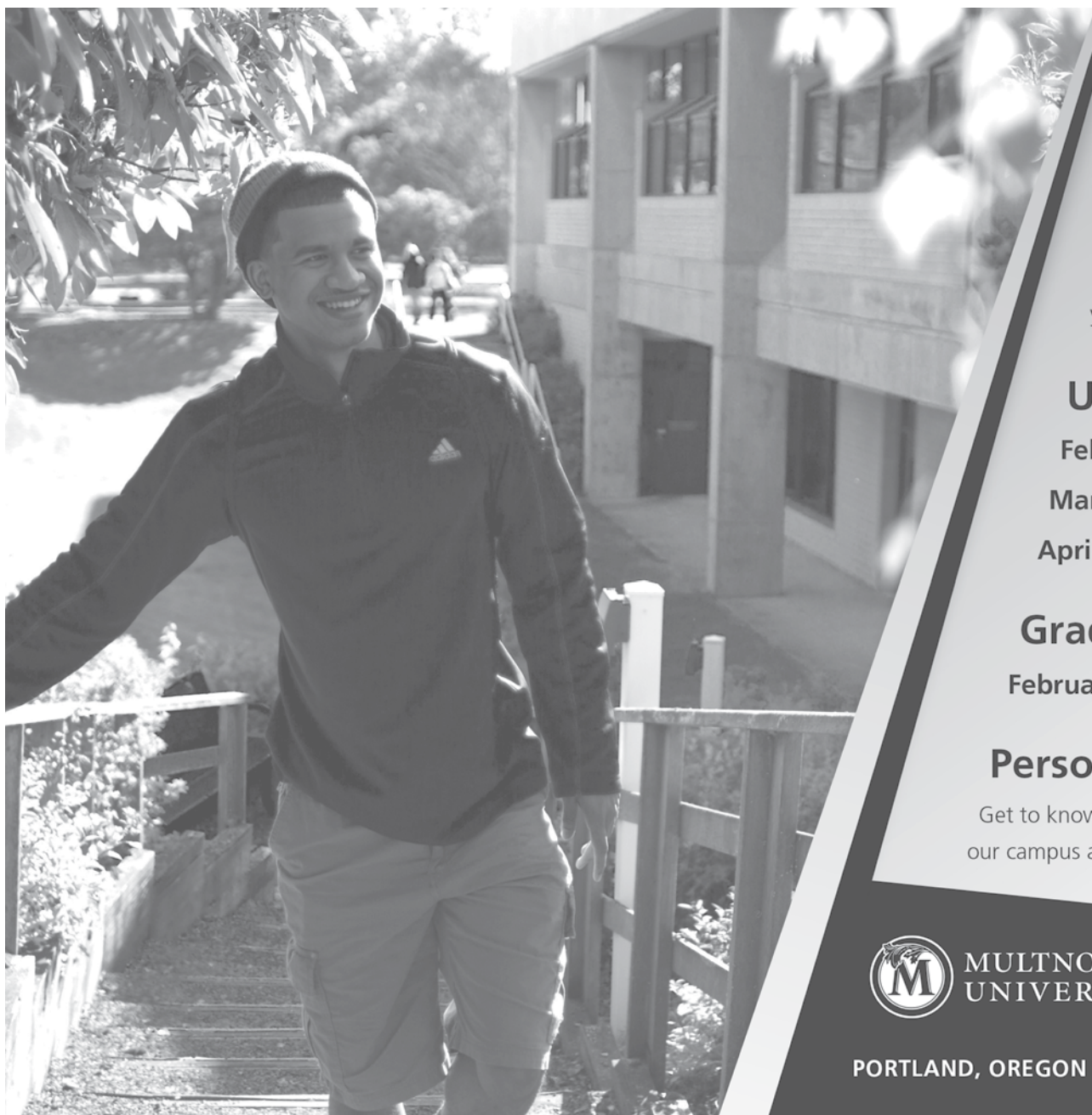
"As a mom and a member of Congress, I am dismayed



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Advocates rally on the steps of the World Trade Center in downtown Portland calling on Congress to fund a federal healthcare insurance program for children in low income families.



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