



October 30, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write on behalf of the Home Visiting Coalition, a diverse group of nearly 50 national and state organizations committed to seeing the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program reauthorized, to thank you for including a two-year funding extension of MIECHV in the Bipartisan Extenders Discussion Draft. **However, we strongly urge you to extend funding for the MIECHV program for a period of five years to provide states, territories and tribes with the stability they need to continue to provide high-quality services that produce important child and family outcomes that have become the hallmark of evidence-based home visiting and the MIECHV program.**

As you know, MIECHV provides critical funding to states, territories and tribes to deliver evidence-based home visiting services to some of the most vulnerable children and families. MIECHV-funded programs provide multi-year services to families to help them improve their parenting skills, early health, school readiness and economic self-sufficiency. Now in its eighth year of operation, MIECHV is demonstrating significant benefits to children, families, and their communities. A recent report of the Health and Human Resources Department, Health Resources and Services Administration found that 70% of grantees reduced tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drug use among pregnant mothers or all enrolled mothers; 51% reduced child visits to emergency department or reduced the number of children with visits to the emergency department for preventable injuries; 70% increased rates of child developmental screenings; and 79% increased income among household members, family members, caregivers, or mothers.

Short-term funding extensions of MIECHV hamper states', tribes' and communities' ability to achieve these outcomes because they impact grantees' ability to effectively plan and manage multi-year programmatic operations. Short term funding extensions, as well as lapses in funding, cause highly-skilled home visitors to seek more secure employment. Because it can take upwards of one year to replace home visitors and build to a full caseload, programs experiencing staff turnover due

to fiscal constraints often struggle to maintain full enrollment. As you know, the relationship between a parent and home visitor is important to achieving positive child and family outcomes. Grantees facing short-term funding and uncertainty about reauthorization curtail enrollment and outreach, in order to conserve resources to ensure they can complete their multi-year commitment to families currently enrolled in home visiting programs. These factors lead to program inefficiency and the loss of services for children and families.

The Coalition is grateful for the strong bipartisan, bicameral support for home visiting, and notes that legislative proposals in both the House of Representatives and the Senate include a 5-year reauthorization of MIECHV at current funding levels. There is broad consensus that this important program deserves to be funded at a level and duration that promotes effective services to serve as many children and families as possible. For all of the compelling reasons above, we urge you to extend funding for MIECHV at no less than its current funding level for a 5-year period to ensure the stability that programs, states, and families need.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Early Success
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Psychological Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
(AMCHP)
Association of State and Territorial Health
Officials
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Care Aware
Child First
Children's Defense Fund
Child Welfare League of America
Dalton Daley Group (DDG)
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for
Exceptional Children
Early Intervention Program for Adolescent
Mothers
Easterseals
Family Check-Up
Family Spirit
First 5 LA
First Five Years Fund (FFYF)
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
Healthy Families America (HFA)
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association
(ITCA)
Institute for Child Success
March of Dimes

National Alliance of Children's Trust &
Prevention Funds
National Association of Counties
National Association of Nurse Practitioners
National Head Start Association
Nemours Children's Health Systems
Nurse-Family Partnership
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Parent-Child Home Program
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Play & Learning Strategies (PALS)
Prevent Child Abuse America
SafeCare
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
The Children's Partnership
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen &
Unplanned Pregnancy
United Way Worldwide

CC: The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Cory Gardner
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Mark Warner
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Michael Crapo
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable Michael Enzi
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Patrick Toomey
The Honorable Dean Heller
The Honorable Tim Scott
The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Thomas Carper
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Michael Bennet
The Honorable Bob Casey
The Honorable Mark Warner
The Honorable Claire McCaskill
The Honorable Robert Menendez