

March 28, 2014

Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As a diverse group of organizations committed to sound policies that both improve outcomes for at-risk children, pregnant women, and families and save taxpayer resources, we write to share our strong support for the extension of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV Program) included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 to be considered Monday.

Our fiscal challenges require that our nation find ways to achieve better outcomes by using resources more effectively. We cannot afford to spend billions annually on poor birth outcomes, child abuse and neglect, childhood cognitive disabilities, high rates of school drop-outs, poor school readiness and academic achievements and dependence on public assistance when these conditions can be prevented at a fraction of the costs with effective evidence-based home visiting programs. The MIECHV Program, which is supporting the expansion of evidence-based home visiting programs in 50 states, 6 territories, and numerous tribes and tribal organizations, invests in programs that prevent problems early before they begin. For that reason, states have embraced the MIECHV Program as a sensible solution to the health, educational and fiscal challenges we face.

Science is squarely on the side of evidence-based home visiting. Decades of rigorous research demonstrate that these programs improve child and family outcomes using resources efficiently and effectively. For instance, voluntary evidence-based home visitation programs have been found to improve prenatal and birth outcomes, early child health and development, greater school readiness, improved parenting practices, and reductions in child maltreatment. These outcomes can produce a substantial return on investment for state and federal government. For example, a 2005 study by the RAND Corporation, entitled *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*, evaluated the cost-effectiveness of two evidence-based home visiting programs and found savings ranging from \$1.80 to \$5.70 per dollar invested.

The MIECHV Program is an innovative, evidence-based program that improves the lives of children and families while saving taxpayer resources. It has proven to make a difference for some of the most vulnerable children, families and communities in our nation. It helps parents get their children off to a good start in life. It will ultimately save taxpayers money through decreased need for health care, remedial education, and other public costs, and increased family self-sufficiency. Participation in home visiting is voluntary – which means parents who participate in the program are committed to their success. That's the kind of pro-family program we should all get behind, and again we appreciate your support for including an extension in the bill to be considered in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Public Health Association  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disability  
Center for American Progress Action Fund  
Child First  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
CityMatCH  
CLASP  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers  
Easter Seals  
Family Voices  
First 5 LA  
First Five Years Fund  
First Focus  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association  
March of Dimes  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Child Abuse Coalition  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Head Start Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Ounce of Prevention Fund  
Parents as Teachers  
Play and Learning Strategies (PALS) Program  
Prevent Child Abuse America

## RESULTS

Safe States Alliance

SafeCare

Save the Children

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Stand for Children

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

The Healthy Steps for Young Children National Program

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Public Health Nursing Early Intervention Program

Youth Villages

ZERO TO THREE