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**Media Contact:**  
**Lauren Baker**  
**303.327.4244**

[lauren.baker@nursefamilypartnership.org](mailto:lauren.baker@nursefamilypartnership.org)

## **Legislation Introduced for Funding Evidence-Based Home Visitation** Nurse-Family Partnership Applauds Ground-Breaking Legislation for At-Risk Families

**DENVER, CO** – (June 16, 2009) - Nurse-Family Partnership®, a leading non-profit organization addressing the needs of low income, first-time parents and their children, applauds United States Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Robert Casey (D-PA) for their introduction today of the groundbreaking Evidence-Based Home Visitation Act to help break the cycle of poverty and improve the health and well-being of low-income children and families. This is the first legislation on this scale known to require that services being funded meet rigorous scientific standards proving effectiveness.

The Evidence-Based Home Visitation Act would create an innovative, competitive grant program to provide a wide array of home visitation programs with the strongest evidence of effectiveness in producing multi-generational improvements in the lives of low-income children and families. The legislation would also fund and foster improvements in evidence-based programs that show significant promise of meeting the highest levels of effectiveness, but that do not currently meet that standard. In effect, this ground-breaking legislation not only calls for funding what is proven to work, it also incentivizes programs to continually improve their effectiveness.

“Senators Casey and Menendez are to be congratulated for introducing this Act, which outlines a new way of addressing some of society’s most enduring problems of poverty and health disparities,” said Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Nurse Family Partnership. “The Obama Administration called for an historic public investment in proven home visitation programs to serve low-income families, beginning in the 2010 fiscal year federal budget, and this Act puts in place a workable framework to make that happen.

“Nurse-Family Partnership serves vulnerable families with the greatest risk of being exposed to adversities and we pride ourselves on over 30 years of research through randomized, control trials that show consistent effective results,” Jenkins continued. “This evidence-based approach can, and does, work.”

Today, Nurse-Family Partnership serves more than 18,000 families in 28 states in a program of ongoing nurse home visitation. It’s estimated that every year there are more than 600,000 eligible first-time mothers in the U.S. that would benefit from the program.

### About Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office ([www.nursefamilypartnership.org](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org)) is committed to producing enduring improvements in the health and well being of low-income, first-time parents and their children by helping communities implement and sustain an evidence-based program of home visiting by registered nurses. Nurse-Family Partnership is the most rigorously tested program of its kind. Randomized, controlled trials conducted over 30 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes that benefit society economically and reduce long-term social service expenditures. Nurse-Family Partnership is headquartered in Denver, Colorado.

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