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Nurse-Family Partnership Applauds the Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees for Including Key Provisions in the Tri-Committee Legislation to Improve the Lives of Children Through Effective Home Visitation

DENVER, Colo. (Sept. 18, 2009) — The Tri-Committee Health Care Legislation includes two key home visitation provisions that will help pave the way for children and families to live healthier, more productive lives. Nurse-Family Partnership®, a leading non-profit organization addressing the needs of low income, first-time parents and their children, applauds the leadership of Chairman Henry Waxman and the Energy & Commerce Committee for including a voluntary state option for evidence-based nurse home visitation to correct and simplify Medicaid coverage of nurse home visitation services for low income, first-time families. This provision will provide States with flexibility to more effectively cover evidence-based nurse home visitation services that have been proven to significantly improve the maternal, prenatal and early health and development of expectant mothers and children, reduce child abuse, neglect and injuries and improve the economic sufficiency of families, while also producing savings to Medicaid.

Nurse-Family Partnership also applauds Chairman Charles Rangel and the House Ways & Means Committee for including an innovative home visitation grant program in the health care reform legislation to fund a range of home visitation programs that help children and families. This initiative embodies President Obama's bold budget proposal to create a new early childhood home visitation program under the Administration for Children and Families. This grant program provides \$750 million over 5 years in mandatory funding to States for high quality home visitation programs to improve maternal and child health and development, school readiness, and the well-being of families, while reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries, and juvenile delinquency among low-income and high risk children and families. The grant program will empower States to make measurable improvements in health, educational and economic disparities that too often prevent millions of children and families from succeeding.

Together, these complementary provisions will transform the lives of children and families in need. Nurse-Family Partnership is appreciative of the dedication and leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairman Rangel, Chairman Waxman, Chairwoman Louise Slaughter, Chairman John Spratt, Jr., and Representatives G.K. Butterfield, Lois Capps, James Clyburn, Danny Davis, Diana DeGette, JoAnn Emerson, Bob Etheridge, Charles Gonzalez, Larry

Kissell, Sander Levin, John Lewis, Betsy Markey, Eric Massa, Carolyn McCarthy, Jim McDermott, Mike McIntyre, Brad Miller, Tim Murphy, Ed Perlmutter, Todd Platts, Jared Polis, David Price, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Tim Ryan, John Salazar, Allyson Schwartz, Edolphus Towns, Fred Upton, and Nydia Velazquez for their support of home visitation. Nurse-Family Partnership looks forward to working with Congress and the Obama Administration to see that these provisions are enacted into law.

About Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office (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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