

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2009

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Budget  
B71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

As you begin working with conferees to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution, we write to urge you to retain the language in House Concurrent Resolution 85 (H.Con.Res. 85) regarding the Home Visitation Program.

As you know, H.Con.Res. 85 established a deficit neutral reserve to provide funds to states for home visitation programs for low-income mothers-to-be and low-income families which will produce sizeable, sustained improvements in the health and well-being of children and their parents. As Section 311 of the report describes, the Committee anticipates supporting programs that have been tested in well-designed randomized controlled trials and are likely to produce future budget savings by improving child and family health and well-being. We believe this language appropriately provides funding to programs that will help low-income children and families who face the greatest risk of poor health, low educational achievement, and increased poverty.

We advocate for the language in H.Con.Res. 85 and oppose the language in Senate Concurrent Resolution 13 (S.Con.Res. 13) with respect to the home visitation programs for two reasons. First, unlike the House version of the Budget, the Senate does not target any resources specifically to low-income children and families. In these dire economic times, we believe it is prudent to target scarce public resources where they are most needed and will be most effective. Moreover, research on home visitation clearly demonstrates that targeting services to those most in need produces the greatest impact. Second, because the Senate language establishes an evidentiary standard that does not distinguish between evidence-based programs proven through randomized controlled trials versus research-based programs in general, it misses the mark. We believe that randomized controlled trials (the gold standard in determining program effectiveness) present the best evidence of a program's cost-effectiveness that will ultimately lead to budgetary savings and improved outcomes for children and families.

We therefore urge you and the conferees to retain the language contained in H.Con.Res. 85 and its accompanying report. Thank you for the leadership you are providing to the House Budget Committee. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress