



May 15, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
U.S. Senate
379A Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard McKeon
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp
U.S. House of Representatives
341 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Baucus, Grassley, Kennedy and Enzi and Representatives Miller, McKeon, Waxman, Barton, Rangel and Camp:

As national organizations committed to improving the lives of children, the undersigned organizations urge you to support President Obama's exciting new initiative to create the first dedicated federal funding stream solely for the establishment and expansion of evidence-based, voluntary home visitation programs for low income parents with young children. As proposed, the program will invest \$8.6 billion in mandatory funding over 10 years, starting with \$124 million to serve an estimated 50,000 families in FY10, and ultimately reaching an estimated 450,000 families at a cost of \$1.8 billion in FY19.

Administered through the federal Administration for Children and Families in HHS, the program will provide formula-based grants to states for evidence-based, voluntary home visiting. Under the proposal, grantees must submit a plan describing the program models they will follow, the evidence base supporting their effectiveness, and how they

will assess implementation and ensure fidelity to the proven models. The proposal also includes a set-aside of not less than five percent for training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, monitoring and administrative support. This home visiting initiative is a sound investment in low income families and children across the country.

Continuing research has documented the positive impact that quality home visitation programs provide for children and families, including: greater school readiness, enhanced child health and development, improved parenting practices, and reduction in child maltreatment and later criminality.

Voluntary home visitation is an effective, research-based and cost-efficient way to ensure that all children have the opportunity to grow up healthy, safe, ready to learn and able to become productive members of society. Investing in this research-proven approach now will mean savings down the road in costs associated with health, education, child maltreatment and criminal justice. We urge you to actively support this initiative moving forward in Congress this summer and ensure its enactment so home visiting can help to improve the lives of children and families.

Sincerely,

Children's Defense Fund

CLASP

CWLA

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI USA)

National Child Abuse Coalition

Nurse Family Partnership

Parents as Teachers National Center

Prevent Child Abuse America/Healthy Families America

The Parent-Child Home Program

Voices for America's Children