

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Thank you for including the new Nurse Home Visitation Program in your proposed FY2010 Budget for the Department of Health & Human Services. We applaud your focus on evidence-based, cost-efficient prevention programs as part of your early childhood, Zero-to-Five initiative.

We share your belief that nurse home visitation based on rigorous scientific evidence is a cost-effective way to improve the health and well being of first time parents and their children. Nurses are a key element in successfully providing these types of services. New mothers trust the experience and expertise of a registered nurse to guide them through the emotional, social, and physical challenges they face as they prepare for a healthy birth and the first few years of their child's life. As you know, the Nurse-Family Partnership is one model that has been proven effective through three randomized controlled trials across diverse populations to improve the health and well being of first-time mothers and their families. The RAND Corporation found a net benefit of \$34,148 (in 2003 dollars) per family served, equating to a \$5.70 return on every dollar invested in the Nurse-Family Partnership model.

We understand that many types of families could benefit from a continuum of care that encompasses an array of early childhood home visitation models. Although many home visitation program models perform valuable services, models that have been validated by randomized controlled trials provide the highest level of evidence to support program effectiveness and a return on investment. We believe it is critically important to ensure the high quality and strong evidence base of home visitation programs through your proposed Nurse Home Visitation Program, which will serve as a model for other government health and social service programs.

As you engage Congress in the FY2010 budget process, we look forward to working closely with you and Secretary of Health and Human Services nominee Governor Kathleen Sebelius to establish a Nurse Home Visitation Program to serve first-time, low-income mothers and their children and help them break the cycle of poverty.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette

DIANA DeGETTE
Member of Congress

Jo Ann Emerson

JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

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Eric Massa

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G.K. Butterfield

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