

Public Policy Update

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U.S. House Releases Draft Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill Cuts Proposed to the FY2012 Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

Yesterday, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies released its draft FY2012 appropriations bill, which eliminates virtually all funding for programs enacted under the Affordable Care Act, including:

- \$350 million for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHVP) (representing an elimination of FY2012 funding);
- \$1 billion for the Prevention and Public Health Fund;
- \$1.2 billion for Community Health Center expansion; and
- \$1.9 billion for the CMS Innovation Center, among other programs.

This draft legislation is NOT final, has not been marked-up by committee, or passed by the House of Representatives – this bill reflects the political priority of the House Republican Leadership to repeal health care reform. The proposed cuts to the MIECHVP should not be interpreted as a rejection of evidence-based home visiting, but rather as an overall political and policy goal to rescind health care reform. A copy of the draft bill can be accessed [here](#).

In the coming days, Congress will consider a continuing resolution to fund the government through November 18 to give them time to negotiate a compromise. As we join forces with other stakeholders to advocate against funding cuts to the MIECHVP and other programs, we will keep you informed of the developments and identify steps you can take to help prevent funding cuts and/or program eliminations. In the meantime, NFP-NSO is taking the following immediate steps:

- The Home Visiting Coalition, comprised of numerous national home visiting models and child advocacy groups, agreed to draft and send a comprehensive sign-on letter to the Joint Select Committee in support of the MIECHVP. This letter will focus on the unique accountability features of the MIECHVP, as well as an impact analysis of the consequences of funding cuts to child and family services, outcomes, jobs, health and social costs, and the infrastructure of early childhood support programs. We anticipate that the letter will be circulated to the field next week.
- The NFP-NSO is developing talking points for contacting Members of Congress as well as local and state advocates in support of the MIECHVP. We will share the talking points over the next few days.
- NFP PGA staff continue aggressive outreach to a bi-partisan group of federal, state, and local home visiting champions to strengthen support for the MIECHVP. We will continue to develop timed outreach to these policymakers from influential state and community stakeholders. Because this process will unfold over the next 3-4 months, we are coordinating efforts so that this advocacy is triggered at the appropriate times.
- The NFP-NSO is collaborating with national and state organizations to prevent and minimize budget cuts to the MIECHVP and other funding sources important to programs that provide additional resources to NFP families.

These recent developments are disappointing. However, we are united with child advocacy groups and the home visiting community to highlight the overwhelming support for the MIECHVP at the federal, state, and local levels. NFP PGA staff will continue gathering intelligence to keep you updated as we advocate for level funding of the MIECHVP and other programs. Please contact your Program Developer or the NFP Policy & Government Affairs team at pga@nursefamilypartnership.org if you have questions regarding this Public Policy Update. For more information, please also visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org.