

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear President Obama:

Thank you for including the Nurse Home Visitation Program in your proposed FY2010 Budget for the Department of Health & Human Services. We share your commitment to investing in the early lives and futures of children and families.

As you know, nurse home visitation programs have had an impressive impact on the prenatal health and pregnancy outcomes of low-income, first-time mothers, who are at risk of poor birth outcomes that often have lasting negative health and educational consequences for children. The Nurse-Family Partnership, in particular, has a proven track record of producing a wide spectrum of benefits; from improving prenatal and child health outcomes to reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries, welfare usage and dependency, and juvenile delinquency and arrests of nurse-visited mothers and their children. The Rand Corporation estimated that for every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership, society saved \$5.70 in reduced health, educational and criminal justice expenditures.

With this in mind, we look forward to working with you to recognize the contributions these programs have already made in the lives of many low-income families and to build upon this success by expanding access to nurse home visitation programs as well as other home visitation programs that have been proven effective and adhere to equivalent high-quality guidelines. The need is clear, and we now have the opportunity to establish a high-quality Nurse Home Visitation Program that demonstrates significant, long-term improvements in the early health, development and economic empowerment of low-income children and their families.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator

cc: Chairman Max Baucus, Senate Finance Committee
Chairman Edward M. Kennedy, Senate HELP Committee
Ranking Member Chuck Grassley, Senate Finance Committee
Ranking Member Michael B. Enzi, Senate HELP Committee

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