

October 18, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

As chief executive officers of the four largest evidence-based home visiting programs we want to express our disappointment that final action was not taken to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program by the September 30th deadline. We remain united in asking Congress to swiftly reauthorize this important program and write to remind you of what is at stake.

Collectively, MIECHV has allowed our models to offer services to more children and families in the highest risk communities across our nation and on Indian reservations and tribal lands. These programs are voluntary, locally operated and selected, and build assets for two generations (parents and children). Our home visiting models, which are diverse in their target populations, methods of operation and proven outcomes, have decades of evidence and real world experience that demonstrate improvements in birth outcomes, early childhood health, educational achievement, and parenting skills, as well as reductions in child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, crime, and dependence on public assistance, among others. These positive outcomes yield real dividends and produce a positive return on investment.

Now this progress is at risk. Uncertainty about when MIECHV will be reauthorized is making it very difficult for states to plan budgets for their home visiting programs. In the short term, this could result in states having to put contracts with local service providers on hold or home visitors being lost, and in the longer term, programs could face closure. Most importantly, this makes it harder for us to ensure that we are able to reach the families who are in need of these services – most of whom are at-risk and in poverty.

MIECHV exemplifies the best in local, voluntary, evidence-based policy with proven outcomes for children and families. While we are thankful for the reauthorization bill that passed the House of Representatives last month and the bipartisan bill that is pending in the Senate, we need to see final action to reauthorize this critical program. We strongly urge you to finish the work and reauthorize MIECHV now.

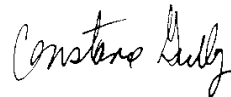
Sincerely,



Frank Daidone
Acting President and CEO
Nurse-Family Partnership



Staci Croom-Raley
Executive Director
Home Instruction for Parents
of Preschool Youngsters



Constance Gully
President and CEO
Parents as Teachers



Dan Duffy
President and CEO
Prevent Child Abuse America/
Healthy Families America