



MIECHV Update September 26, 2017

Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2824, the *Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act* by a vote of 214-209.

The bill would reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for 5 years at its current funding level of \$400 million, and include a number of other policy changes to the program.

Four amendments were considered on the House floor. Three were agreed to, and one failed (an amendment from Rep. Pascrell (D-NJ) to strike employment and earnings as a measure of self-sufficiency). A motion to recommit the bill and simply extend MIECHV for 5 years was also defeated.

Here is what [H.R. 2824](#) does, with amendments agreed to **in bold**:

- Reauthorizes the MIECHV program at current funding level of \$400 million through fiscal year 2022.
- Requires a new state needs assessment by FY2020.
- Measures improvements in family economic self-sufficiency by factoring in measures of employment and earnings.
- **Allows states to take into account staffing, community resource, and other requirements when determining how to operate at least one home visiting model in communities in need of services (Rep. Smith (R-NE) amendment agreed to).**
- Allows a state to use their MIECHV allocation for “pay for outcomes” projects, but requires that in doing so, a state cannot reduce funding for current services.
- Requires that a state match MIECHV grant funds by a certain percentage beginning in FY2020, resulting in a 50-50 federal-state match in FY2022 and beyond. **Tribal entities and organizations are not required to match federal funds (Rep. Delbene (D-WA) amendment agreed to).**
- Creates data exchange standards for increased data interoperability between federal agencies.
- **Requires HRSA to utilize the most accurate federal poverty data available for each jurisdiction in its grant allocations (Rep. Murphy (D-FL) amendment agreed to).**

With House action on the bill complete, the bill moves on to the Senate, where another MIECHV Reauthorization bill was introduced last week. The *Strong Families Act*, S. 1829, was introduced by Senator Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Menendez (D-NJ) and has nine [bipartisan cosponsors](#).

NFP supports S. 1829 and is asking all Senators to join as cosponsors. The Senate bill marks a crucial next step in the effort to reauthorize MIECHV, and we are encouraged by the continued progress. We hope that this bill can be taken up very soon by the Senate, ideally as part of a legislative package that can move before MIECHV expires on September 30th. [Click here](#) to contact your Senator and ask them to cosponsor the *Strong Families Act*, S. 1829.

We will keep you posted as developments continue in this crucial week. If you have questions, please contact Teri Weathers, Director of Federal Policy and Government Affairs, at teri.weathers@nursefamilypartnership.org.