



Representative Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer,

As the acting Chief Executive Officer of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), I write to express my profound disappointment in Congress' failure to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. This evidence-based program, which funds vital home visiting programs for at-risk families, expired on September 30, 2017 and has now been waiting nearly four months to be funded.

NFP is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable babies born to at-risk, first-time mothers. The program partners mothers with a registered nurse at a pivotal moment — beginning early in pregnancy with a first child — and providing ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities also benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership can yield more than five dollars in return.

MIECHV funds a diverse array of evidence-based programs like NFP, enabling millions of children and families to have access to evidence-based home visiting services that break cycles of poverty. These programs demonstrate improvements in a range of outcomes, including prenatal health, early childhood development, and educational achievement, as well as reductions in child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, crime and dependence on public assistance.

Our progress is at risk of unraveling. Uncertainty about when MIECHV will be reauthorized is already affecting state budget planning. Our programs could lose nurses, which are highly-trained and in high-demand, and we could see NFP programs face closure down the road. We know that the support is there for MIECHV but the continued churn of inaction is making 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.

We strongly urge you to finish the work and reauthorize MIECHV now. Our families deserve your attention.

Sincerely,

Frank Daidone
Acting President and CEO, Nurse-Family Partnership