FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

116th Congress

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of babies born to first-time mothers facing a range of challenges to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Over 40 years of research has demonstrated NFP's track record at improving the health and wellbeing of families. Specially trained registered nurses build a trusting relationship with first-time mothers beginning early in pregnancy and continuing until the child's second birthday. NFP nurses work with mothers to provide the confidence and tools they need not only to assure a healthy start for their babies, but to envision a life of stability and opportunities for success for both mom and child.

NFP works to advance public policies that:

- Improve, protect, and expand federal funding streams for NFP
- Improve NFP’s coverage within Medicaid and the health care system
- Advance and support stable and healthy families
- Support innovative opportunities to advance effective programs

REACH MORE MOMS

NFP’s proven track record of transforming the life trajectory of families in poverty is supported by governments at every level. Public funding is critical and provides the majority of funding for NFP’s local network partners. We work to protect, expand, and better utilize these funding streams, which include the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, Medicaid, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, child welfare funding, and other federal dollars. H.R. 4768, the Home Visiting to Reduce Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Act passed the House in December 2019. The bill increases funding for the MIECHV program by 50 percent in 2021 and doubles it in 2022 for total funding of $800 million annually. Additionally, the bill increases funding for Tribal MIECHV programs to $36 million in 2021 and $48 million in 2022. NFP strongly supported H.R. 4768 and is actively working to see a companion bill with the same levels of funding in the Senate.
**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

NFP knows that healthy, strong mothers mean healthy, strong babies and children. Our mothers face a range of challenges, and NFP supports a variety of efforts to help them and their children thrive. NFP is committed to addressing maternal and infant mortality rates in the U.S. We support **H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act**, which would authorize grants to implement rural obstetric networks, maternal telehealth programs and a rural maternal care training demonstration. It also contains maternal health provisions from the **S. 1895, the Lower Health Care Costs Act**, including funding to promote best practices, educate health care professionals on implicit bias, implement state perinatal quality collaboratives, and deliver integrated health care services to pregnant and postpartum women.

NFP supports **H.R. 4996, the Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services Act** which would give states the option to extend Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program coverage for pregnant and postpartum women from the current 60 days to one year after birth, with a 5% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for the first year a state opts to extend the coverage.

The World Health Organization has identified 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse”, and the work of NFP would not be possible without nurses. NFP supports **S.1399, the Title VIII Nursing Reauthorization Act of 2019**, which would reauthorize nursing workforce development programs through FY 2024. Title VIII provides the largest source of federal funding for nursing education. These programs are critical to institutions that educate nurses for practice, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

**SUPPORT ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

Our mothers’ ability to provide safe, stable homes and childcare for their children are important priorities for NFP. We support **H.R. 1185/S. 463, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act**. The FAMILY Act would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of partial income when they take time for their own serious health conditions, including pregnancy and childbirth recovery and covers workers in all companies, no matter their size.

NFP supports the highest funding levels for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. We also support **H.R. 1364/S.568, the Child Care for Working Families Act**. The bill ensures that no family under 150 percent of the state median income pays more than seven percent of their income on childcare. Families under 75 percent of the state median income will not have to pay anything at all. The bill would also support universal access to high-quality preschool programs for all 3- and 4-year olds.

Economic and social conditions have a powerful impact on our health and wellness. Known as social determinants of health, a focus on these non-medical factors can improve health outcomes and wellbeing. **H.R. 4004, the Social Determinants Accelerator Act** will help states and communities devise strategies to leverage existing programs and authorities to address all aspects of health, including food, housing, transportation, and workforce. The bill would allocate nearly $25 million in grants for state, local, and tribal governments to address barriers to making comprehensive, high-impact investments that address complex needs.

*For questions or more information* on NFP’s federal legislative priorities, contact our Policy & Government Affairs Team ([pga@nursefamilypartnership.org](mailto:pga@nursefamilypartnership.org))