

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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September 29, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 66,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, we write to endorse your legislation to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation Reauthorization legislation (S. 1829).

The AAP applauds this bipartisan bill to reauthorize MIECHV. The Academy is a longstanding supporter of MIECHV because home visiting programs support improved child health, well-being, and development. MIECHV funds evidence-based programs focused on a variety of important child health outcomes, including preventing maltreatment, fostering child development, promoting school readiness and improved long-term academic outcomes, and supporting parents' development of educational and work-related skills.

Congress has a significant opportunity to reauthorize this successful program and to expand its impact to serve the health, development, and wellbeing of vulnerable children and families. We strongly support a bipartisan path forward for a long-term reauthorization that can provide MIECHV the resources needed to ensure these programs reach all children and families who would benefit from them.

MIECHV is essential to enabling these programs to serve vulnerable children and families across the country. We appreciate your bipartisan commitment to extending MIECHV for five years, and appreciate that this legislation continues the federal funding commitment to MIECHV. We look forward to continuing to work with you to enact these important policies for children.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on home visiting. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ami Gadhia in our Washington, D.C. office at 202/347-8600 or agadhia@aap.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Stein", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP
President
FS/zml