

November 27, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-232  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington DC 20510

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

As volunteer board members of home visiting models, we come from diverse professions in the business, health care, educational, legal and social services fields. Despite our different backgrounds, we are united in our commitment to evidence-based home visiting for a simple, yet bold reason: It works as a strategy to fundamentally improve the health, educational attainment and economic stability of children and families. We write to strongly urge you to swiftly reauthorize the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program for a five-year period at no less than its current funding level of \$400 million annually. We also urge you not to include a state match requirement, which will curtail services for children and families in many states. This program's authorization expired on September 30th, and we fear that continued delay only hurts the at-risk populations that MIECHV is designed to protect.

As you know, MIECHV supports efforts by states, territories and tribes to work with families on a one-on-one basis with evidence-based home visiting services that have been proven to improve early health outcomes of babies and young children, parenting knowledge and skills, educational attainment of both children and parents, and the economic stability of families. These important outcomes produce corollary benefits that include reductions in child maltreatment and preventable injuries, language delays and other cognitive impairments, dependence on public assistance, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Preliminary assessments of the MIECHV program further demonstrate these outcomes. Recent reports on MIECHV indicate that 81 percent of states have seen improvements in maternal and newborn health; 85 percent showed improvements in school readiness; 85 percent showed improvements in family economic self-sufficiency; and 70 percent showed improvements in reducing domestic violence and crime.

Healthy children who are ready to succeed in school and life, and more productive, resilient families are important justifications for prioritizing MIECHV's long-term reauthorization for five years. As you are aware, MIECHV's current funding level allows the program to serve less than 10 percent of the children and families nationally who could benefit from home visiting services. For that reason, we encourage you to find ways to increase the funding allocation for MIECHV to allow it to serve more families and achieve population-based outcomes that bend the health, educational, and social services cost curves.

Finally, we caution you against imposing a state matching requirement in MIECHV. As you know, many states continue to struggle to balance their budgets in the face of many competing challenges, such as recovering from localized economic difficulties that might not be experienced on a national level - disastrous hurricanes and other weather occurrences are a recent example. We are highly concerned that the imposition of a state match will result in the loss of services in states that may be unable or unwilling to meet the match. MIECHV is producing positive child and family outcomes that help transform the lives of families and strengthen communities. We need more home visiting services, not less.

As you work to address issues of national importance, we urge you to prioritize reauthorizing MIECHV, a pivotal program that is making a real difference in the lives of children and families in communities across our nation. Thank you for your commitment to sound policies that improve the lives of children and families.

Sincerely,

Angelo P. Giardino  
Pediatrician  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Todd A. Jacobson  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Philip V. Scribano  
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics  
Perelman School of Medicine, University of  
Pennsylvania  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Deborah Snyder  
Executive Director, Sigma Delta Tau  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Matthew W. Walch  
Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Michael Stuart Dervos  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Dwayne A. Crawford  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Maura Somers Dughi  
Life Member  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Beatrice A. Yorker  
Professor, Nursing and Criminal Justice  
California State University, Los Angeles  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Thomas Fox  
Board Chairman  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Andrea Robertson  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Michael Axelrod  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Yolanda Harris  
Board Member  
Healthy Families America/Prevent Child  
Abuse America

Miriam Westheimer  
Director, HIPPY International  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Dora Rose Lipper  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Francesca Scheiber  
Ph.D. Student  
University of Iowa  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Suzanne Plastrik  
Ex-officio member HUSA Board  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Cheryl L. Berenson  
NCJW WA State Policy Advocate  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Susan P. Storer  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Linda Frank  
Past Board Chair/Strategic Outreach Advisor  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Robin Frank  
Board Chair  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Victoria Wall Kern  
Trustee & Secretary  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Anita M. Stoller  
Board Member  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool  
Youngsters (HIPPY USA)

Robert F. Hill  
Of Counsel, Hill & Robbins, P.C.  
Denver, CO  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

C. Robin Britt  
Executive Director, Guilford Child  
Development  
Guilford, North Carolina  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Michele Ridge  
Former First Lady of Pennsylvania  
Erie, PA/Washington, DC  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Christian Soura  
Former Director, South Carolina Department  
of Health & Human Services  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Chris Wasserstein  
Psychotherapist  
New York, New York  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Todd Wenner  
Principal, Fermata Realty Advisors  
Parker, Colorado  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Susan Hagedorn, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN  
Brooklyn, New York  
Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Regina Anne Gleason  
State Leadership Board of Minnesota  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Barbara Leon  
State Leadership Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Joan Patterson, PhD  
University of Minnesota Professor Emerita  
State Leadership Board of Minnesota  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Tom Ross Jenkins  
State Leadership Board of Pennsylvania  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Stacy E. Walters  
State Leadership Board of Minnesota  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Shari Marie Garger  
State Leadership Board Member  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Charlie Butts  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Jane C. Spencer  
Director and Executive Committee Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Deborah Velez Medenica  
Senior Vice President, Fred Alger  
Management  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Marlene Motyka  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Sonia W. Hamstra  
President, Board of Directors  
Parent-Child Home Program

Stephan Oppenheimer  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Thomas Powers  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Jim Molloy  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Bobby N.D. Lavoie  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

William Francis Wallace  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Lisa Filomia  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Eric William Hess  
Board Member  
Parent-Child Home Program

Renee Welch Ph.D.  
With Kids In Mind  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Thomas Patrick Curran  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Carolyn Werner Losos  
President, Lewis and Clark Foundation  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Steven Rosenblum  
Washington University  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Don M. Senti  
Retired Superintendent, Parkway, MO  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Mary Louise Hemmeter  
Professor, Vanderbilt University  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Mark R. Ginsberg  
Dean & Professor, George Mason University  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Arthur L. Mallory  
Former Commissioner of Education for  
Missouri  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Maxine Clark  
Founder  
Build-A-Bear Workshop  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Janet R. Newtown  
Early Childhood Consultant  
Infant Toddler Specialist Network  
Board Member  
Parents as Teachers

Patricia J. Kempthorne  
Board Chair  
Parents as Teachers

Nancy K. Kaufman  
CEO  
National Council of Jewish Women

John Gonzalez  
Founder  
JDG Associates, Inc.

Steffanie E. Clothier  
Investment Director  
Gary Community Investments

Laura A. Peracchio  
Judith and Gale Klappa Professor of  
Marketing  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

CC: The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable John Cornyn  
The Honorable John Barrasso  
The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Cory Gardner  
The Honorable John Thune  
The Honorable Richard Durbin  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
The Honorable Joe Manchin  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Steve Scalise  
The Honorable Luke Messer  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable James Clyburn  
The Honorable Joseph Crowley