



The Honorable Charles Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

October 23, 2017

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and Safe States Alliance, we are writing to thank you for introducing S.1829 to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program for an additional five years. As organizations representing leaders in state and territorial public health agencies, many of our members are responsible for administering the MIECHV program and/or complementary programs in their states.

The MIECHV program has long enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and we thank you for continuing that tradition by introducing this legislation. Furthermore, we are happy to see that S.1829 does not include the harmful provision contained in the House version of MIECHV reauthorization, H.R.2824, which would create for the first time a matching requirement of grantees.

A majority of states and territories do not have the resources to match their MIECHV grants with state investments in MIECHV-eligible home visiting programs. With many states facing significant budget shortfalls, we are concerned that states would be unable to predict the long-term viability of continuing the program in absence of knowing what the state budget for eligible matching funds would be over the next several years. State health departments are already required to provide a match along with a maintenance of effort for their Maternal and Child Health Services Block grants, demonstrating their commitment to the vulnerable populations served via the Title V program. Some state funds currently being invested in home visiting may already be used as state match for other federal funds, and it is not clear if they would be eligible to count for more than one program.

We urge you to continue working with your colleagues in Congress to ensure reauthorization of MIECHV as soon as possible given that the September 30 deadline has already passed, and to ensure that a final version of reauthorization does *not* include the harmful state match requirement.

Thank you again for your continued leadership!

Sincerely,

Lori Tremmel Freeman  
CEO  
AMCHP

Michael R. Fraser, PhD, MSMSL, CAE, FCPP  
Executive Director  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Lindsey Myers, MPH  
President  
Safe States Alliance