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June 6, 2017

Senator Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

NashvilleHealth, a population health community collaborative started by former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, MD, writes in strong support of a five-year reauthorization of the bipartisan-supported Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program with increased funding from \$400 million annually to \$800 million annually before funding expires on September 30, 2017.

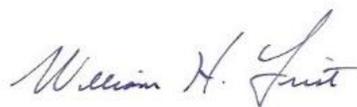
Our organization is committed to improving the health and well-being of all Nashvillians. An important focus of our collaborative work is ensuring our youngest residents have a healthy start in life, and MIECHV programs are a critical resource for the most vulnerable children and families in our city and across our state.

These programs are a cornerstone of evidence-based policy, reflecting that the effectiveness of programs and services for children and families should not be left to chance, but proven through data and positive outcomes. Results have demonstrated that voluntary evidence-based home visiting programs produce a broad range of multigenerational outcomes for children and parents, including improvements in prenatal care and birth outcomes; early childhood health and development; school readiness; parenting practices; and economic stability; while reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries; juvenile delinquency and crime; and dependence on public assistance. Furthermore, home visiting helps to address a key NashvilleHealth policy priority of reducing infant mortality.

In Tennessee, MIECHV funds support evidence-based home-visiting services as well as universal newborn outreach in all 95 counties through the Welcome Baby program, which reaches approximately 80,000 infants each year. These services support 1,687 families per year (as of the end of FY2016), particularly military families living off base of the Fort Campbell Army Installation. A loss of or disruption in MIECHV funding represents a \$7.3 million loss to the State of Tennessee, and consequently the loss of services to our state's families who benefit the most from evidence-based home-visiting. The State of Tennessee is not able to absorb such a significant operating loss should there be a delay in the reauthorization of MIECHV funding.

With expanded, stable funding, MIECHV could serve hundreds of thousands of children and families in need across our nation, enabling them to lead healthier, more prosperous lives. We urge you to reauthorize this important program for 5-years with a doubling of funding from \$400 million annually to \$800 million annually to allow states, territories and tribes to expand these services to more children and families in need.

Best Regards,



Bill Frist, M.D.
Founder and Chairman



Caroline Young
Executive Director