



## LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

### From the Co-Conveners

The House Committee on Ways and Means' Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing on MIECHV that featured an unprecedented round of applause – prompted by a Member of Congress – for the teen mother who testified about invaluable support she got from her nurse home visitor through Nurse-Family Partnership. The hearing also featured heartwarming statements by legislators from both political parties and an outpouring of overall support for home visiting in general and MIECHV in particular. All that by way of saying, there is momentum on our side to get MIECHV not just reauthorized but expanded. But it's important to remember that the clock is ticking, and this is a Congress with a lot on its plate. We can't let MIECHV get lost in the crisis-of-the-moment or any of the other distractions of Washington, and we certainly can't get lulled into thinking we have done all there is to do.

*Diedra Henry-Spires and Karen Howard, co-conveners of the Home Visiting Coalition*

### Bipartisan Senators Host Capitol Hill Briefing



Nearly 100 staffers and advocates came to a Capitol Hill briefing April 11 hosted by Senators Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, and Robert Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey. Speakers at the briefing made a strong case to a receptive crowd for MIECHV reauthorization and increased funding. Speakers included: Zakiyyah Jacobson, a New Jersey mom; Dr. Cynthia Schaffer Minkovitz, M.D., director, Women's and Children's Health Policy Center, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Kathy Stack, vice president of evidence-based innovation, the Laura and John

Arnold Foundation and Janet Horras, state home visitation director in the Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Family Health. The briefing was featured in [Politico's Morning Education](#).

*Above: Zakiyyah Jacobson of Hackensack, N.J., tells the packed house about her experience with [Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters \(HIPPIY\)](#), one of the voluntary, evidence-based home-visiting models supported by MIECHV.*



## MIECHV IN THE STATES

- House Ways and Means Committee Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Adrian Smith went on a home visit in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and saw firsthand how home visiting helps parents build self-sufficiency. Working with the Home Visiting Coalition, the program's administrator in Scottsbluff followed up [with a letter to the editor](#) thanking him for taking the time to see home visiting up close. Then Rep. Smith published his own piece in a local paper lauding MIECHV as a federal social program that has "[the end goals of independence and productivity](#)." Great work all around and a good reminder to let the HVC coalition know if you have a Member visit coming up so we can help amplify your efforts.
- Here's a piece the Washington MIECHV advocacy team worked on with a local sheriff, discussing how home visiting helps reduce child abuse and neglect. <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/apr/14/fund-home-visiting-fight-child-abuse/>
- In Iowa, Home Visiting Coalition leaders created a set of shareable graphics to help advocates tell their own stories. Check it out here: [MIECHV Social Media Toolkit](#).



## MIECHV IN THE NEWS

- It's official! While the Home Visiting Coalition has been hard at work behind the scenes for many months, we waited until March to tell the world about it – and tell them we did. Here's a piece in [Education Week](#) and one in the [Chronicle of Social Change](#) about the launch and [another about the Subcommittee hearing](#) the next day.
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- Here's a [great piece from Colorado](#) that highlights a successful family involved with Nurse-Family Partnership and manages to slip in MIECHV.



## WHAT'S NEXT WITH MIECHV

Mother's Day is coming up quickly. This is a great time to get local media to come along on a home visit and help them tell the story of how voluntary, evidence-based home visiting helps build healthy families and communities. It's also a good excuse to publish an op-ed on home visiting as a key support for moms. Let your communications team know if you would like help making this happen. Also, keep an eye out for a special Mother's Day social media shareable with a message for Congress.

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