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Home Visiting Coalition Praises Inclusion of Home Visiting Reauthorization in Omnibus

*National organizations commend Congress and legislative champions for
bipartisan action on behalf of women and children in need*

*Enactment of year-end spending package will
ensure home visiting services continue and expand*

WASHINGTON – More than a dozen national organizations committed to the well-being of children and families today wholeheartedly praised Congressional negotiators and legislative champions for including a bipartisan five-year reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program in the year-end spending package introduced in the Senate.

“We are so pleased and grateful that Congressional negotiators have agreed to include a five-year reauthorization of home visiting services in the Omnibus spending bill,” said the Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee. “MIECHV is truly the gold standard in evidence-based policymaking, and these services pay massive dividends by helping ensure prenatal and post-partum physical and psychological health and supporting healthy infant and child development. We strongly urge the House and Senate to enact this legislation into law because home visiting works!”

MIECHV-funded home visiting supports evidence-based interventions to improve maternal and infant health; creates connections between caregivers, the pediatric medical home, and other health practitioners in the community; and provides screening for perinatal depression and connects parents with appropriate community-based behavioral health care. Home visits support families in their child’s early development and learning; ensures referrals when certain risk factors, including trauma or domestic violence, are present in the home; provides resources for children who experience trauma and toxic stress; and helps families navigate complex community-based systems of supports.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the *Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization (H.R. 8876)* with a bipartisan vote of 390-26, which the Home Visiting Coalition was proud to endorse. Named in honor of the late U.S. House Ways and Means Worker and Family

Support Subcommittee Ranking Member Jackie Walorski (R-IN), a longstanding champion of MIECHV, the bill's overwhelming passage demonstrates the breadth of its support across geographic regions and the political spectrum.

The five-year reauthorization included in the Omnibus would expand the program over five years, providing significant additional resources to tribal communities, and allowing for the continuation of virtual home visiting.

"We wholeheartedly thank those policymakers who have worked so hard to reauthorize these critical services, including Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Richard Neal (D-MA), and Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA)" said the Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee. "We are grateful Congress is considering this fitting tribute to the late Rep. Walorski, as it is a testament to her lasting legacy of impact on behalf of women and children in need. We urge Congress to get this MIECHV reauthorization done without delay."

The Home Visiting Coalition steering committee is comprised of:

- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Child First
- First 5 California/First 5 LA/First 5 Association of California
- First Five Years Fund
- First Focus on Children
- Campaign for Children
- Healthy Families America
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- Start Early
- ZERO TO THREE

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