



April 18, 2020

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member, Finance Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Neal and Ranking Members Wyden and Brady:

As national organizations at the forefront of improving lives for children and families, thank you for your leadership in beginning to address the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Like nearly every sector of society right now, families served through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) are facing new challenges. We urge you to provide emergency flexibility and a one-time investment of \$100 million for MIECHV, as outlined below, to help preserve this valuable program:

- Prioritize a **one-time \$100 million appropriation for MIECHV**. These funds can be used to train home visitors to deliver services through technology that enables home visits from a distance, as well as tangible needs for families including technology, formula, diapers, etc.
- **Allow virtual visits to be considered home visits** through the end of the calendar year to safely preserve valuable relationships without being penalized.
- **Maintain all funding for and staffing levels of MIECHV programs** regardless of potential temporary reductions in enrollment to preserve the existing home visiting infrastructure.

MIECHV is more important now than ever, as families who already faced complex needs have been thrust into chaos due to COVID-19. Home visitors are a critical link of support for families who are facing a variety of challenges that will be exacerbated by this crisis. With public health at risk and the social safety net in higher demand, these professionals are working overtime to deliver services to families in an unprecedented environment and through creative means.

In order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, home visitors need flexibility and additional resources. MIECHV-funded programs have begun pivoting to accommodate new ways of reaching

families, including expanding telehealth and virtual home visits, but they must have the certainty that these visits are covered by the MIECHV program. Our community is committed to preserving the invaluable relationships that have already been established between home visitors and families, and to making sure families get the information and help they need to stay healthy and safe during this unprecedented crisis.

The undersigned national organizations appreciate your attention to these critical needs as Congress continues to develop legislation to provide relief during this crisis.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of State and Public Health Nutritionists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for the Study of Social Policy

Child Abuse Council

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Home & Aid

Children's Home Society of America

Compassionate Growth Counseling

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)

Educare Learning Network

Every Mother Counts

Expecting Health

Families USA

FAMILY FOCUS, INC.

First Five Years Fund

First Focus Campaign for Children

Greater Southwest Development Corporation

Healthy Families America

HIPPY USA

IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)

Inspired Beginnings, LLC

Legal Council for Health Justice

March of Dimes

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Social Workers

National Family Support Network

National Head Start Association

National League for Nursing

National WIC Association

National Women's Law Center

Nurse Family Partnership

One Hope United

ParentChild+

Parents as Teachers

Prevent Child Abuse America

Results for America

Right Steps Family Center

Save the Children Action Network

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

The Ounce of Prevention Fund

Trust for America's Health

U.S. Breastfeeding Committee

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