



September 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As national organizations at the forefront of improving lives for children and families, thank you for your leadership to address the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic, and specifically for keeping home visiting as a top priority in the updated version of the *Heroes Act*.

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) is more important now than ever, as families who already faced complex needs have been enduring more than half a year of evolving chaos due to COVID-19. Home visitors are a critical link of support for families who are facing a variety of challenges that have been exacerbated since the pandemic began. 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.

To meet the needs of the families served by MIECHV, home visitors need flexibility and additional resources. MIECHV-funded programs have pivoted to accommodate new ways of reaching families, including expanding telehealth and virtual home visits. With that pivot must come the certainty that these visits are covered by the MIECHV program, and the support to purchase needed technology. 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 for their health and safety, and the tools to support the health and development of their children during this unprecedented crisis. Home visitors continue to fill gaps created by the pandemic- they are dropping off food, diapers, books, and even school materials for older children, to the families they serve. The emergency flexibility and a one-time investment of \$100 million for MIECHV included in the updated *Heroes Act* will help preserve this valuable program so that families can continue to receive the services and supports that are so critically needed right now.

Thank you for your ongoing support of MEICHV and your commitment to sending additional aid to people in need during this crisis.

Sincerely,

National Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee:

American Academy of Pediatrics

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives
First 5 California
First Five Years Fund
First Focus Campaign for Children
Healthy Families America
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Nurse Family Partnership
Parents as Teachers

CC Chairman Richard Neal
 Chairman Frank Pallone
 Chairman Danny K Davis
 Chairwoman Anna Eshoo
 Representative Kathy Castor