

November 14, 2019

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Davis:

As state and local organizations at the forefront of improving outcomes for women and their families, we write in strong support of H.R. 4768, the *Home Visiting to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Act*. Thank you for your work to address the maternal mortality crisis in the United States, and for your recognition of the urgency of this matter.

Pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period are critical and fragile times for mothers and infants. Proper prenatal care, early maternal support, and planning to care for a new baby are essential to healthy births and positive maternal and infant outcomes. Unfortunately, for a growing number of women, particularly women of color and Native women, persistent barriers during the prenatal and postpartum periods lead to significant negative health outcomes and, in the most extreme cases, death.

During your committee's May 16 hearing, *Overcoming Racial Disparities and Social Determinants in the Maternal Mortality Crisis*, members reflected the growing recognition that home visiting is an important part of a continuum of evidence-based services for families at risk of maternal mortality and/or morbidity. Many members recognized that the impact of voluntary home visiting in rural and urban communities alike has been well documented through research for over three decades.

Your bill to expand funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) makes critical steps to expand the reach of home visiting to address the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. As states and localities seek to deliver proven programs to improve outcomes in this area, your bill allows for the targeting of additional dollars to high-needs communities.

Home visiting programs impact maternal mortality and morbidity in myriad ways, including:

- Creating human-to-human relationships that enable home visitors to provide supports based on the very specific needs of each family;
- Reducing pregnancy induced hypertensive disorders, pre-term birth, and maternal depression;
- Creating connections between mothers and health practitioners in the community, breaking down barriers to care and strengthening the link between healthcare resources and the families who need them;
- Providing screening in maternal depression both prenatally and postpartum, and connecting mothers in need with appropriate community-based behavioral health care;
- Providing referrals for mothers when certain risk factors, including trauma or domestic violence, are present in the home;

- Providing resources to children who experience trauma and toxic stress, which research has shown to lead to poor health outcomes for those children in adulthood¹;
- Targeting the social determinants of health affecting families, such as social support, parental stress, access to health care, income and poverty status, and environmental conditions.²

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that approximately three in five pregnancy-related deaths were preventable, and that “every death reflects a web of missed opportunities.” Contributing factors can be categorized at the community, health facility, patient, provider, and system levels, and evidence-based home visiting plays a unique role at the intersection of all these areas. But in 2017, a report found that 18 million pregnant women and families could benefit from home visiting programs but were not being reached. These numbers have held steady since 2015.³

The *Home Visiting to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Act* recognizes that a meaningful increase to MIECHV could make a significant impact on the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis. Home visiting empowers, educates, and builds resiliency in mothers facing a variety of adverse circumstances that affect their health in the perinatal period and into their child’s early years, thus creating opportunities to impact positive changes for families.

Our organizations were grateful for bipartisan support to reauthorize MIECHV in early 2018. That reauthorization meant certainty for states and local programs, who work each day to deliver home visiting programs to families that need them. Because of that reauthorization, we also know that home visiting is already doing work in communities today to address this crisis of poor maternal health outcomes, disparate access to care, and gaps in connections to services. It is vital that we devote additional resources now to improve the lives of women who are at-risk and their families.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Alabama

- ALABAMA Cooperative Extension System
- Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
- Alexander City Board of Education
- Coosa County HIPPY
- Dallas County Board of Education
- Dallas County HIPPY
- Easterseals West Alabama
- Elmore County HIPPY
- First Teachers Program
- Fort Payne City Schools HIPPY Program
- Gadsden City Schools

¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *Injury prevention and control: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study*. Retrieved July 7, 2014, from www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/

² Artiga, S., Hinton, E., (2018). *Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity*.

³ https://www.nhvr.org/wp-content/uploads/NHVR_C_Yearbook_2018_FINAL.pdf

Goodwill Easterseals of the Gulf Coast
HIPPY Clarke County
HIPPY Conecuh
HIPPY Lowndes County
Perry County Board of Education
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc.
Tuscaloosa City Schools-HIPPY
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Weogufka Center for Arts, Entertainment and Education
Wilcox County Schools/Wilcox HIPPY

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust
RurAL CAP

Arizona

Casa de los Ninos
Child and Family Resources, Inc.
Family Network
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

Arkansas

Boston Mountain Educational Coop
Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
Van Buren & Stone County HIPPY
Wilbur D Mills Education Service Cooperative
Valley Regional Occupational Program

California

Alameda County First 5
Big Orange Splot, LLC
BreastfeedLA
California Family Resource Association
CASA
Child Abuse Prevention Center
Child Care Resource Center, Inc.
Children Now
Children's Advocacy Institute
CO/CREATE
First 5 Association of California
First 5 California
First 5 Commission of San Diego
First 5 Fresno County
First 5 Imperial

First 5 Kern
First 5 LA
First 5 Riverside
First 5 Sacramento Commission
First 5 San Francisco Children and Families Commission
First 5 San Mateo County
First 5 Sonoma County
Folsom Cordova Community Partnership
Head Start California
Hilber Psychological Services
Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
LA Best Babies Network
LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment
North County San Diego Home Visiting Collaborative
Postpartum Health Alliance
Prevention Child Abuse California
SAY San Diego
St. Francis Medical Center
Sugar Night Night
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
UCSD Women's Reproductive Mental health program
Volunteers of America
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Yolo County Children's Alliance

Colorado

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Children's Campaign
Denver's Early Childhood Council
Family Focus Aurora
Family Visitor Programs
Illuminate Colorado
Mile High United Way Inc
Nurse-Family Partnership San Luis Valley Site Colorado
Parent Possible
Raise Colorado Coalition
Roots Family Center
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
The Kempe Foundation

Connecticut

Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut

Delaware

Children & Families First
Prevent Child Abuse Delaware

Florida

Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition
Central Healthy Start, Inc.
Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.
Chipola Healthy Start, Inc.
Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition
Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions
Florida HIPPY Technical Assistance and Training Center
Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition
Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties, Inc.
Healthy Start Coalition of JMT
Healthy Start Coalition of Orange County
Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.
Healthy Start Coalition of Santa Rosa County, Inc.
Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Healthy Start of North Central Florida, Inc.
Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
MomsWell
UF Health Healthy Start Program
UF Health Jacksonville
WellFlorida Council, Inc.

Georgia

National SafeCare Training and Research Center at Georgia State University, School of Public Health
Prevent Child Abuse Athens
United Way of Central Georgia
United Way of Northwest Georgia

Hawaii

Child & Family Service
Healthy Families Oahu
Institute for Native Pacific Education & Culture (INPEACE)
Keiki O Ka Aina Preschool, Inc
Parents And Children Together

Idaho

Idaho Voices for Children
Inland Northwest SIDS Foundation, Inc.
Nurse-Family Partnership

Panhandle Health District
Prevent Child Abuse Idaho/Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Illinois

Child Abuse Council
Children's Home & Aid
ChildServe
Erie Family Center
Erikson Institute
HealthConnect One
Jewish Federation of Chicago
Legal Council for Health Justice
Peoria County Bright Futures
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
SAL Family and Community Services
SouthSide Early Childhood Center
Square One
The Allegro Center LLC
United Way of Illinois
Voices for Illinois Children
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA Northwestern Illinois

Indiana

Adams County Healthy Families
CAPS- Child and Parent Services
CareSource Indiana
Eskenazi Health Center
Family Focus, Inc
Family Support Services of West Central Indiana
Goodwill Industries of Michiana
Goodwill of Central & Southern IN Nurse-Family Partnership
Healthier Moms and Babies
Healthnet Healthy Families
Indiana Hospital Association
IU Health Community Health Nurse-Family Partnership
IU Health South Central Region
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.
Mental Health America of Northwest Indiana
Nurse-Family Partnership Goodwill
Nurse-Family Partnership of St. Joseph, Elkhart, and LaPorte County
Nurse-Family-Partnership—Northern Indiana
The Villages Healthy Families of Hamilton County

Iowa

Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Crittenton Center
Lutheran Services in Iowa
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
Siouxland District Health Department

Kansas

Kansas Children's Service League
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
Kansas Children's Service League
Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Kansas Head Start Association
Southeast Kansas Education Service Center
Unified Government Public Health Dept-Healthy Families Wyandotte
Saint Francis Ministries
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
United Methodist Healthy First Ministries

Kentucky

Child Studies Program at Western Kentucky University
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

Louisiana

Agenda for Children
Kingsley House
Louisiana Association of United Ways
Louisiana Budget Project
Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
United Way of Southeast Louisiana

Maine

Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Children's Trust

Maryland

Association of Public Health Laboratories
Baltimore County Department of Health
Campfield Judy Center
Center for Children
Early Care Programs Healthy Families Garrett County

Family Services, Inc.
Hawthorne Judy Center
Healthy Families Baltimore County
Integrative Therapy of Greater Washington
Maryland Essentials for Childhood
Maryland State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect
North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology
Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.
Sheppard Pratt Health System
The Family Tree

Massachusetts

Justice Resource Institute
Massachusetts Citizens for Children
Square One
Worcester Community Action Council

Michigan

Berrien County Health Department
Calhoun County Public Health Department
Community First Health Centers
Cradle Connections LLC
Great Start Collaborative Oakland
Great Start Parent Coalition - Oakland
Hurley Medical Center Nurse-Family Partnership
Infant Massage Institute
Lotus Psychology Group
Macomb County Health Department
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan's Children
Montcalm County Prosecuting Attorney
MPHI
Oakland County Public Health Department
Regional Health Alliance
Starfish Family Services

Minnesota

Clay County Early Childhood Initiative
Community Students Learning Center
Fairmont Area ECFE
Human Services of Faribault & Martin Counties
Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting
Minnesota Communities Caring for Children, home of Prevent Child Abuse MN
Pope County Early Childhood/THRIVE Initiative

The Family Partnership
West Central Initiative

Mississippi

Community Students Learning Center

Missouri

Generate Health
Healthy Families of America
Kids Win Missouri
Missouri Children's Trust Fund
Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA)
Phelps/Maries County Health Department
WEPOWER

Montana

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Best Beginnings Coalition
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, The Montana Coalition, Inc. (HMHB)
Lewis and Clark Public Health
Missoula City County Maternal Child Health Advisory Committee
Missoula City-County Health Dept.
Montana Association for the Education of Young Children
Montana Public Health Association
Prevent Child Abuse Montana
RiverStone Health
The Family Tree Center
Watson Children's Shelter

Nebraska

Healthy Families Gage and Jefferson Counties
Nebraska Children's Home Society
Visiting Nurse Association

Nevada

Advocates to End Domestic Violence
Baby's Bounty
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Community Chest, inc.
Elko County Early Childhood Advisory Council
Foundation for Positivity Kids
Immunize Nevada
NARAL Pro-Choice Nevada
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Las Vegas Chapter
The Children's Cabinet

The Hills Foundation
University of Nevada, Reno; Human Development & Family Studies

New Hampshire

Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice

New Jersey

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Bergen Family Center
Center for Family Services
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Children's Futures, Inc.
Healthy Families at Holy Redeemer Home Care
Mali's Family Childcare
Parents as Teachers: Union County
Partnership for Maternal Child Health of Northern New Jersey - PAT
Passaic County Healthy Families-TIP Program
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Programs for Parents, Inc
Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County, Inc.
Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
St Francis Community Center, LBICC, Inc
United Way of Central Jersey
Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Children & Family Health Institute
Youth Advocate Program
Youth Consultation Service

New Mexico

Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico
New Mexico Voices for Children
Taos Pueblo Head Start and Early Head Start
Tiwa Babies
University of New Mexico Taos Early Childhood Education

New York

Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
C.I.D.S.
CAMBA Inc.
Catholic Health System
Citizens' Committee for Children on NY
Community Action Partnership
Friends of New York City Nurse-Family Partnership

Hillside Family of Agencies
Jamestown Community Learning Council
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc.
ParentChild+
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Public Health Solutions
SCO Family of Services
Sullivan County Public Health /Healthy Families of Sullivan
The Children's Agenda
Visiting Nurse Service of New York

North Carolina

Child Care Services Association
Exchange Family Center
F I R S T
Family Resource Center South Atlantic
Imprints Cares
Mitchell Yancey Healthy Families
Montgomery County Department of Health
NC Child
NC Division of Public Health
NCPAT, Inc
North Carolina Partnership for Children
Pamlico Partnership for Children
Parents as Teachers Guilford County
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
The Parenting PATH

North Dakota

Lutheran Social Services of ND
Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota

Ohio

Clinton County Health District
Every Child Succeeds
Groundwork Ohio
Help Me Grow
Help Me Grow Brighter Futures
Hocking Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
Kinsel Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consulting
LINKS Community and Family Services
Marion Adolescent Pregnancy Program
MetroHealth Medical Center
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Vinton County Help Me Grow
Youth Advocate Services

Oklahoma

CAP Tulsa
Latino Community Development Agency
Parent Promise/Prevent Child Abuse Oklahoma
Smart Start Central Oklahoma

Oregon

Belle Ame Therapy, LLC
Children First for Oregon
Children's Institute
Clackamas County Children's Commission
National Crittenton
Parenting Now!
Peaceful Nest Postpartum Services
Postpartum Support International
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
The Next Door, Inc.
Washington County Health and Human Services

Pennsylvania

Allies for Children
Healthy Family Partnership
Maternity Care Coalition
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Serenity Solutions, LLC
The Guidance Center
Trying Together
UPMC
UPMC Susquehanna, Nurse-Family Partnership

Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
South County Home Health

South Carolina

Center for Family Medicine Residency Greenville, SC
Children's Trust of South Carolina
McLeod Health
McLeod Nurse-Family Partnership

MUSC Healthy Families Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties
Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County
Spartanburg Regionals Nurse-Family Partnership
SRHS Nurse-Family Partnership
York County First Steps
York Regional Nurse-Family Partnership

South Dakota

Yankton County Parents as Teachers

Tennessee

Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee

Texas

Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Coalition of Health Services
Healthy Futures of Texas
Madonna Center Inc
My Red Tent
Texans Care for Children
TexProtects and Prevent Child Abuse Texas
United Way of the Coastal Bend
Wellness Pointe

Utah

Children's Service Society
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia

Champions for Children: Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads
Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP) of Roanoke Valley
Child Health Partnership
Children's Museum of Richmond
ChildSavers
Early Impact Virginia
Empower Resiliency Counseling Center
Families Forward/Prevent Child Abuse VA
Family Lifeline
FRIENDS Association for Children

Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court, Inc.
Healthy Families Blue Ridge
HumanKind
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
MEOC Families Forward
Minus 9 to 5, EVMS
New River Community Action, Children's Health Improvement Partnership
Norfolk Department of Public Health
Northern Virginia Family Service
NOVA Birth Partners
Nurse-Family Partnership Western Tidewater
Quin Rivers Community Action Agency
ReadyKids
Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond
Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula
The Children's Center
The Up Center
Tracey Wingold, LCSW, LLC
Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health
Virginia Commonwealth University Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia Initiative
Virginia Head Start Association
Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington

Chelan-Douglas Health District
Children's Home Society of Washington
Children's Alliance
ChildStrive
Mothering Voice Psychological Services
Partners for Our Children
Partners for Our Children
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Washington Association for Infant Mental Health
Washington State Home Visiting Advocacy Committee

Washington, DC

Children's Law Center
DC Action for Children
DC Fiscal Policy Institute
Martha's Table
Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Care
RESULTS

West Virginia

Allegheny Highlands Parents as Teachers
Children's Home Society of WV
Clay County Parents as Teachers
Mineral County Family Resource Network
Morgan County Starting Points
New River MIHOW/PAT
Partners in Community Outreach
Pleasants County Family Resource Network
Preston / Taylor Parents as Teachers Program
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia
REACHH - FRC, Inc.
REACHH Family Resource Center
TEAM for West Virginia Children
The Shack Neighborhood House
Webster County Starting Points Child Development Center
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

Wisconsin

All Encompassing Counseling, LLC
COA Youth & Family Centers
Easterseals
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc
Kids Forward
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Wyoming

Healthy Moms-Healthy Births
Wyoming Child & Family Development, Inc.
Wyoming Community Foundation