

AUGUST Congressional Recess Toolkit



When Congress returns from its August recess, there will be fewer than 15 legislative days to reauthorize MIECHV before it expires. With a crowded legislative agenda, we need your voices to make sure Congress knows that MIECHV must be reauthorized NOW. We hope you will find this updated toolkit helpful in reaching out to members of Congress during the August recess.

Four Important Things You Can Do in Our Final Push

1 Reach out to the Senate Finance Committee Members

In the U.S. Senate, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) recently spearheaded a letter urging Senate Finance Committee leadership to reauthorize MIECHV before it expires. Members who signed the letter include: Senators Grassley (R-IA), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Rob Portman (R-OH), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Michael Crapo (R-ID), Tim Scott (R-SC), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and Tom Carper (D-DE). Please [reach out to these members](#) from your state to:

- Thank them for signing on to the Grassley/Menendez letter and ask them to encourage Sens. Grassley and Menendez to continue to craft bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes MIECHV for 5-years with an incremental doubling of funding from \$400 million annually to \$800 million annually with no substantive changes to the MIECHV program.
- Ask them to reauthorize MIECHV on a legislative package called “the extenders” or on other suitable bipartisan legislative package(s) **that can pass Congress before September 30, 2017**
- Call other members of the Senate Finance Committee to ask them to support MIECHV’s 5-year reauthorization with an incremental doubling of funding on the extenders package or other suitable bipartisan package(s) that can pass Congress.

You can stay engaged with [Finance Committee Members](#) and other key elected officials by signing up for their newsletters, public meetings and townhalls. [Here you can find a snapshot](#) of available newsletters and public events such as upcoming townhalls.

2 Reach out to Finance Committee Leadership

We want Senate Finance Committee [Chairman Orrin Hatch](#) and [Ranking Member Ron Wyden](#) to hear your stories – call and tweet at these two senators too! Your testimonies are powerful and will help us in our final push. Their Twitter handles are: [@senorrinhatch](#) / [@RonWyden](#).

3 Congressional Leadership including [Speaker of the House](#) and [Senate Majority Leader](#) must hear from you too.

It’s also critical that House and Senate leadership also hear your stories. We invite you to call and tweet at [Majority Leader](#) Rep. Kevin McCarthy and [Senate Majority Leader](#) Mitch McConnell. On the Democratic side, please reach out to, [Democratic Leader](#) Rep. Nancy Pelosi and [Democratic Whip](#) Rep. Steny Hoyer, [Minority Leader](#) Sen. Chuck Schumer and [Assistant Minority Leader](#) Sen. Patty Murray.

4 Reach out to your Representatives

Urge them to reauthorize MIECHV in a bipartisan manner before it expires. Look up your representatives [here](#).

Creative Things You Can Do to Support MIECHV



Have parents upload a short video to social media (60 seconds or less) sharing how home visiting has impacted their lives and tag key Members.



Share photos of your next home visit (with parents' permission) and post to social media, tagging key members.



Mail a drawing or painting from the children depicting their home visiting experience to key members' offices.



Send your elected officials a postcard to remind them to act quickly on MIECHV.

Top Line Talking Points

If MIECHV isn't reauthorized, on October 1, more than 140,000 families in 50 states, 6 territories and numerous tribes could begin to lose effective home visiting services that improve their health, school readiness, economic security and that help states save resources.

It is urgent that Congress reauthorize MIECHV for 5-years with an incremental doubling of funding on a bipartisan package called the "extenders package" or another suitable bipartisan package that can pass Congress on or before September 2017. Home visiting is a smart, proven investment in our most important asset – our families.

Rigorous research shows home visiting:

- Reduces child abuse and neglect
- Improves the health and well-being of young children
- Increases parental self-sufficiency as parents stay in school and/or obtain gainful, stable employment
- Improves school readiness and success in young children

With results like these, Congress should expand support for home visiting – doubling it to \$800 million a year by year 5 – so more families can benefit. We need more programs like this, not fewer.

The program, as it is structured now, allows states and local communities to make the decisions that are right for them about how to provide home visiting services. At the same time, it encourages innovation and continuous improvement.

Educational Message

MIECHV is an important program that provides funding to my state/community to support the implementation of primarily evidence-based home visiting programs. Home visiting is a smart, proven investment in our most important asset – our families.

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Our state relies on MIECHV to support home visiting programs and services that help families succeed.

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Sample Tweets:

Feel free to share any photos along with any of these tweets!

We proudly joined [@HomeVisiting](#) to tell [@ChuckGrassley](#) to expand MIECHV now because #HomeVisitingWorks. <http://bit.ly/2uJ5wf3>

Dear [@senorrinhatch](#) #HomeVisitingWorks. Please expand MIECHV NOW to help more families: <http://bit.ly/2uJ5wf3>

Dear [@RonWyden](#), Home visiting improves physical, mental health of families. Expand MIECHV NOW: <http://bit.ly/2t6f4Pn> #HomeVisitingWorks

#HomeVisitingWorks - it increases school readiness & improves economic security. [@SpeakerRyan](#) Expand MIECHV! <http://bit.ly/2uJ5wf3>

MIECHV has a long history of bipartisan support. Tell [@WhipHoyer](#) to act now to expand it: <http://bit.ly/2uJ5wf3> #HomeVisitingWorks

MIECHV is good for families, good for states & good for taxpayers. What are we waiting for? <http://bit.ly/2t6f4Pn> #HomeVisitingWorks

My family is proof that #HomeVisitingWorks. [@NancyPelosi](#), reauthorize MIECHV so others can benefit like I did. *(please add a personal photo or video!)*

#HomeVisiting made my family stronger. [@ChuckGrassley](#), please make sure others can benefit from MIECHV *(please add a personal photo or video!)*

We also encourage you all to be sure you're following [@HomeVisiting](#) on twitter. We will be sharing lots of great content and you can 'like' or 'retweet'.

Sample Facebook Post from Advocates:

We encourage you to use the following Facebook posts as a guide. Feel free to tailor them as you see fit and include any photos that tell your story along with the post.

TAG ELECTED OFFICIAL: Please protect and expand the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. Home visiting improves physical and mental health, and increases school readiness and economic stability. It's good for families, good for states and good for taxpayers. #HomeVisitingWorks What are you waiting for? *(please add a personal photo or video!)*

Sample Facebook Post from Parents

TAG ELECTED OFFICIAL My experience with home visiting helped me to understand how to give my baby the best possible chance at success – in school and in everything that comes after. Together with my home visitor, I set goals for myself as well and I'm on my way to meeting them. #HomeVisitingWorks and it is time for Congress to get moving and reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. *(please add a personal photo or video!)*