



January 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-232
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our deep disappointment that H.R. 195 (the Continuing Resolution) introduced in the House of Representatives did not include provisions renewing the bipartisan Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. As you are aware, MIECHV provides funding to states, territories and tribes to implement and expand effective home visiting programs that improve the early health, school readiness and economic stability of children and families. This important program is credited with significantly improving prenatal health, birth outcomes, school readiness and parenting skills, while reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries, dependence on public assistance and parental involvement in the criminal justice system. These outcomes yield impressive dividends to communities, states, tribes and the federal government in human capital and reduced government expenditures.

As you know, MIECHV enjoys broad bipartisan support in Congress. Last year, the House of Representatives passed legislation to renew MIECHV for five years at level funding. In fact, Chairman Kevin Brady made it a priority of the Ways and Means Committee, calling MIECHV “a solution to help more families climb the economic ladder and empower parents to achieve better outcomes for themselves and their children.” In the Senate, bipartisan legislation spearheaded by Senator Grassley and Senator Menendez would reauthorize MIECHV for five years at level funding. It is unquestioned that MIECHV is sound policy that promotes healthy, resilient families who are equipped to succeed.

As you know, funding for MIECHV expired last September. The lapse in funding has impacted the ability of some home visiting programs to plan operations for the future and hire and retain home visitors. Instability in funding has the real potential to undermine the ability of home visiting

programs to operate, and will ultimately harm children and families. We therefore call upon you to renew MIECHV for five years at no less than its current funding level of \$400 million annually in the Continuing Resolution.

We are pleased to see the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reauthorized in the Continuing Resolution. Many children served by MIECHV rely on CHIP for their health coverage. We want to also urge you to fund community health centers, as many families served by MIECHV receive comprehensive health services at community health centers. CHIP, MIECHV and community health centers are vitally important to raising healthy children who can succeed and thrive in school and life.

We urge you to continue to prioritize the needs of vulnerable children in the Continuing Resolution by including a five-year renewal of MIECHV at its current funding level and by funding community health centers.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Alliance for Early Success

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Psychological Association

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Child Care Aware

Child First

Child Welfare League of America/National Child Abuse Coalition

Children's Defense Fund

Dalton Daley Group

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers

Easterseals

Family Check-Up

Family Spirit

First 5 LA

First Five Years Fund (FFYF)

First Focus Campaign for Children

Futures Without Violence

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI USA)

IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)

Institute for Child Success

March of Dimes

National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds

National Association of Counties

National Association of County & City Health Officials

National Association of Nurse Practitioners

National Head Start Association (NHSA)
Nemours Children's Health System
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
Parent-Child Home Program
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Play & Learning Strategies (PALS)
SafeCare
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
The Children's Partnership
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen & Unplanned Pregnancy
United Way Worldwide

CC: The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Cory Gardner
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Mark Warner
The Honorable Bernie Sanders
The Honorable Joe Manchin
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steve Scalise
The Honorable Luke Messer
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Joseph Crowley