



Dear Brent:

Last Thursday, in a bipartisan vote of 392-37, House lawmakers passed a bill to end the “sustainable growth rate” used to calculate doctor’s payments for Medicare. This bill also includes a two year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program; the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) and Family to Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs), all at current funding levels.

Unfortunately, the Senate adjourned early last Friday for a two week recess before finalizing the bill. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said the Senate would make the legislation its “first order of business” when they return on Monday, April 13 and added, "I think there's every reason to believe it's going to pass the Senate by a very large majority."

**We do not expect any MIECHV or other program disruptions between now and the planned April 13 vote. In the meantime, it remains important for your U.S. Senators to hear strong support for the inclusion of these key MCH provisions in this bill prior to the April 13 vote.** Please take a moment now to call your senators, as always in accordance with your state's rules on advocacy.

- 1) Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator. (Or you can look up the names and office phone numbers of your [senators](#) online.)
- 2) Once you’re connected, please identify yourself as a constituent and use the talking points below to help frame your message: “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I’m a constituent and want to share a message with my senator that I strongly support inclusion of critical maternal and child health program extensions as part of the SGR package, including funding for MIECHV, CHIP, the Personal Responsibility Education Program and Family to Family Health Information Centers. Together these programs enhance our system of services addressing leading MCH issues in our state, and I urge your boss’s support for their continuation.”
- 3) Hang up and call your other senator.

We are truly in the home stretch and your support to help push this across the finish line is greatly appreciated. If a two year extension is granted, this will provide a welcome bit of stability to MCH programs. It also positions MIECHV well for a longer extension and ideally review of needed funding levels in 2017 by providing time for Congress to review upcoming MIECHV evaluation data and chart future directions through a standard reauthorization process. Thanks again for all you do to improve maternal and child health.