May 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
LHHS Subcommittee
US Senate
Washington DC

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
LHHS Subcommittee
US Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
LHHS Subcommittee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
LHHS Subcommittee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Moran, Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least $639 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the FY2015 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost effective, accountable, and flexible funding source used to address the most critical, pressing and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in each state. In 2012, the Title V MCH Block Grant provided support and services to 43 million individuals including children with special health care needs. States and jurisdictions use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. Although initiatives may vary among the states and jurisdictions, all of them work with local, state, and national partners to accomplish the following:

- Reduce infant mortality;
- Improve the health of the population through prevention initiatives;
- Help newly insured individuals access appropriate health care;
- Improve state systems and infrastructure;
- Continue to provide wrap-around supports, medical homes, and family-centered, community-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs; and
- Partner with other agencies, schools and youth organizations to prevent behaviors that place youth at risk.

This funding request represents a $91 million decrease from its highest level of $730 million in FY2003. We thank you for funding the Title V MCH Block Grant at $634 million in the FY2014 Omnibus, but maintain that nondefense discretionary programs cannot continue to bear the brunt of
efforts to reduce the federal deficit. Specifically, sequestration combined with reductions throughout the
past ten years resulted in decreases bringing funding for the Title V MCH Block Grant to its lowest level
since 1991.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that in addition to providing services to over 40 million
individuals, Title V MCH Block Grant programs save federal and state governments money by ensuring
that people receive preventive services to avoid more costly chronic conditions later in life.
Accordingly, we must preserve this program and urge you to fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at $639
million in FY2015. For additional information on MCH programs in your state please contact Amy
Haddad at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-266-3045 or
ahaddad@amchp.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Public Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
California Breastfeeding Coalition
Centering Healthcare Institute
Children’s Defense Fund
Children's Home Society of America
CityMatCH
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Easter Seals
Family Voices
Genetic Alliance
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
March of Dimes
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Nurse-Family Partnership
Parents as Teachers National Center
Prevent Blindness
PXE International
RESULTS
Safe States Alliance
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Women's Health Research
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
ZERO TO THREE