

April 24, 2013

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to applaud your bold leadership and vision in including a proposal for the continuation and significant expansion of the bipartisan-supported Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) as part of the Administration's proposed new investments that support a continuum of high-quality early learning and services for at-risk young children. We share your commitment to ensuring that children born into poverty and disadvantage start the race of life healthy and ready to succeed in school, the workforce, and life. We are grateful that your proposal to invest \$15 billion in the MIECHV over 10 years, as incorporated in your proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget, will enable millions of children and families to have access to evidence-based home visiting services that science and real world practice tell us work to transform their lives and produce real economic dividends to our nation.

As you well know, in the four short years since its enactment, the MIECHV Program enjoys broad national support with funding supporting evidence-based home visiting programs in 50 states, 6 territories, and numerous tribes and tribal organizations. This groundbreaking program is helping to make a measurable positive impact on prenatal health, birth outcomes and early child health and development; school readiness and academic achievement; and parental employment and family economic stability; while reducing child abuse, neglect and injuries, juvenile delinquency, and domestic violence and crime. In addition, the MIECHV Program is fostering improvements in state infrastructures to allow states to create a seamless continuum of health, educational and social services for children and families to maximize their impact and effectiveness.

These positive outcomes not only give children the chance to succeed, they contribute to our national economic prosperity and security and save federal and state government scarce resources. A recent report by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy highlights the cost-savings and return on investment of several evidence-based home visiting models as ranging from \$3,100 to \$21,000 per family served, which equates to a \$1.75 to \$3.25 return per dollar invested. Other studies have found similar returns. A Rand Corporation study evaluated a nurse home visiting model and found a \$5.70 return for every dollar invested in that program.

We commend you for your continued support and leadership for children and families. We look forward to working with your Administration on the framework for home visiting in the broader context of health and early learning objectives for young children, including the expansion and extension of the MIECHV Program, and we stand ready to assist in advocating for the enactment of this proposal with members of Congress.

Sincerely,

Cydney Wessel, Senior Director
Healthy Families America (HFA)

Lia Lent, Executive Director
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY)

Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

Scott Hippert, President & Chief Executive Officer
Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Susan Landry, Director & Founder
Play and Learning Strategies (PALS) Infant

Ursula Johnson, PhD, Coordinator
Play and Learning Strategies (PALS) Infant

Jim Hmurovich, President & Chief Executive Officer
Prevent Child Abuse

Michael Fraser, PhD CAE, Chief Executive Officer
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Cc: Michael Lu, Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health, Health Resources and Services Administration

Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy

Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Interdepartmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families

Mary Wakefield, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration

David Willis, MD, FAAP, Director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services (DHVECS)