

November, 2013

Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Budget  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairpersons Murray and Ryan:

As a diverse group of organizations committed to sound policies that both improve outcomes for at-risk children, pregnant women, and families and save taxpayer resources, we write to urge you to support the deficit-neutral reserve fund for home visiting in the Senate Budget Resolution, and support the enactment of legislation expanding the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV Program). We also urge you to reverse sequestration, which has resulted in \$29 million being cut from the MIECHV Program for FY 2014.

Our fiscal crisis requires that our nation find ways to achieve better outcomes by using resources more effectively. We cannot afford to spend billions annually on poor birth outcomes, child abuse and neglect, childhood cognitive disabilities, high rates of school drop-outs, poor school readiness and academic achievements and dependence on public assistance when these conditions can be prevented at a fraction of the costs with effective evidence-based home visiting programs. The MIECHV Program, which is supporting the expansion of evidence-based home visiting programs in 50 states, 6 territories, and numerous tribes and tribal organizations, invests in programs that prevent problems early before they begin. For that reason, states have embraced the MIECHV Program as a sensible solution to the health, educational and fiscal challenges we face. In addition, a modest portion of MIECHV supports “promising practices,” for innovative programs that incorporate best practices to help ensure states address the evolving needs of high-risk children and families.

Science is squarely on the side of evidence-based home visiting. Decades of rigorous research demonstrate that these programs improve child and family outcomes using resources efficiently and effectively. For instance, voluntary evidence-based home visitation programs have been found to improve prenatal and birth outcomes, early child health and development, greater school readiness, improved parenting practices, and reductions in child maltreatment and/or later criminality. These outcomes can produce a substantial return on investment for state and federal government. For example, a 2005 study of the RAND Corporation evaluated the cost-effectiveness of two evidence-based home visiting programs and found savings ranging from \$1.80 to \$5.70 per dollar invested.<sup>1</sup>

We recognize that you face difficult funding decisions among numerous priorities. As you work to finalize budgetary and long-term spending decisions for our nation, we urge you to end the sequester and spend wisely on effective programs that make smart fiscal sense and that represent a balanced approach that protects the comprehensive needs of vulnerable children and families. The MIECHV

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<sup>1</sup> Karoly, L.A., et al. Summary: Early childhood interventions: proven results, future promise. From full report, Tables 4.2, 4.3, 4.4. Santa Monica, CA: **RAND** 2005.

Program more than fits those criteria as an innovative, evidence-based program that improves the lives of children and families while saving taxpayer resources.

Sincerely,

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Tom Price  
The Honorable Diane Black  
The Honorable James Clyburn  
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
The Honorable Nita Lowey  
The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
The Honorable Charles Grassley  
The Honorable Mike Enzi  
The Honorable Mike Crapo  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
The Honorable Ron Johnson  
The Honorable Kelly Ayotte  
The Honorable Roger Wicker  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
The Honorable Chris Coons  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
The Honorable Tim Kaine  
The Honorable Angus King  
The Honorable Max Baucus  
The Honorable Jay Rockefeller  
The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
The Honorable Bill Nelson  
The Honorable Robert Menendez  
The Honorable Tom Carper  
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
The Honorable Michael Bennet  
The Honorable Bob Casey  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable Pat Roberts  
The Honorable John Cornyn  
The Honorable John Thune  
The Honorable Richard Burr

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
The Honorable Rob Portman  
The Honorable Patrick Toomey  
The Honorable Sam Johnson  
The Honorable Kevin Brady  
The Honorable Devin Nunes  
The Honorable Pat Tiberi  
The Honorable Dave G. Reichert  
The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr.  
The Honorable Peter J. Roskam  
The Honorable Jim Gerlach  
The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
The Honorable Adrian Smith  
The Honorable Aaron Schock  
The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
The Honorable Tom Reed  
The Honorable Todd Young  
The Honorable Mike Kelly  
The Honorable Tim Griffin  
The Honorable Jim Renacci  
The Honorable Kenny Marchant  
The Honorable Dave Camp  
The Honorable Sander Levin  
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
The Honorable Jim McDermott  
The Honorable John Lewis  
The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
The Honorable Mike Thompson  
The Honorable John B. Larson  
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
The Honorable Ron Kind  
The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
The Honorable Joseph Crowley  
The Honorable Allyson Schwartz  
The Honorable Danny Davis  
The Honorable Linda Sanchez  
The Honorable Fred Upton  
The Honorable Henry Waxman  
The Honorable Ralph Hall  
The Honorable John D. Dingell  
The Honorable Joe Barton  
The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.  
The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
The Honorable John Shimkus

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts  
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
The Honorable Greg Walden  
The Honorable Gene Green  
The Honorable Lee Terry  
The Honorable Diana DeGette  
The Honorable Mike Rogers  
The Honorable Lois Capps  
The Honorable Tim Murphy  
The Honorable Michael F. Doyle  
The Honorable Michael C. Burgess  
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
The Honorable Jim Matheson  
The Honorable Phil Gingrey  
The Honorable G. K. Butterfield  
The Honorable Steve Scalise  
The Honorable John Barrow  
The Honorable Bob Latta  
The Honorable Doris O. Matsui  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
The Honorable Donna Christensen  
The Honorable Gregg Harper  
The Honorable Kathy Castor  
The Honorable Leonard Lance  
The Honorable John Sarbanes  
The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
The Honorable Bruce Braley  
The Honorable Pete Olson  
The Honorable Peter Welch  
The Honorable David McKinley  
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
The Honorable Cory Gardner  
The Honorable Paul Tonko  
The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
The Honorable John Yarmuth  
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
The Honorable Bill Johnson  
The Honorable Billy Long  
The Honorable Renee Ellmers