



November 20, 2017

National Foundation for Women Legislators
1727 King St., Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators:

It was our pleasure to present at your annual conference on Thursday, November 17th and share important information on human trafficking and its link to child abuse prevention. Human trafficking is a public health concern that impacts individuals, families and entire communities across generations. Focusing more efforts in upstream primary abuse prevention can help reduce risk factors that lead to child sexual exploitation.

More effort must be placed on public policies that provide funding for early intervention, such as voluntary home visiting services like our signature Healthy Families America program. The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funds evidence-based programs that support overburdened families at risk for adverse childhood experiences, including child maltreatment. MIECHV has strong bipartisan support and funds programs that provide more than 2.3 million visits to at-risk families across all 50 states, D.C. and five territories in communities that are at highest risk of infant mortality, poverty, low-weight births and teen pregnancy.

We need your help: MIECHV supports proven home visiting programs that work, and we need to **reauthorize MIECHV at a 5 year extension at no less than its current funding level of \$400 million annually**. MIECHV grantees, like Healthy Families America, have shown impressive outcomes including:

- 85% demonstrated improvement in children's school readiness and achievement
- 85% demonstrated improvement in family economic self-sufficiency
- 81% demonstrated improvement in maternal and newborn health

We are encouraging you to contact your state's Senators and Governors today and let them know that you support evidence-based home visiting and why. Your Senators can help by passing S. 1829, the Strong Families Act of 2017, or by including MIECHV in

Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

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any funding vehicle or extenders package. Your Governors can help by prioritizing funding for home visiting in state budgets. We have included a draft script that you can use when contacting your members of Congress or Governor's office about MIECHV (see enclosed).

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding child sex trafficking programs and campaigns we are conducting in states like New Jersey – such as My Life My Choice, Empowering Young Men, and Enough Abuse campaign – please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Duffy".

Dan Duffy
President & CEO

Encls.



Scripted Message on the Importance of MIECHV Reauthorization

The following scripted message can be used in letters to and conversations with your governors and states' congressional delegation.

Dear Governor/Member of Congress **NAME**,

As a state legislator for **LIST YOUR STATE** and someone who is committed to responsible policy and saving taxpayer dollars, I write to urge your help to ensure swift action to reauthorize the evidence-based Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. MIECHV funds voluntary, outcome-focused home visiting services to parents and children at risk of adverse experiences, and is one of the only social programs where funding is tied to proven evidence.

Since its inception, MIECHV has been strongly supported by members of Congress on both sides of the aisle because it saves taxpayer dollars while producing real results for children and families, including:

- Improved birth and health outcomes
- Improved parenting knowledge and skills
- Educational attainment of both children and parents
- Increased workforce participation by parents
- Economic stability of families

This program is critical to children and families in **LIST YOUR STATE** and is in urgent need of reauthorization. I am writing to ask that you help in urging Congress to reauthorize MIECHV for five years at no less than its current funding of \$400 million annually without a harmful state match – anything less could undermine the success of federally-funded home visiting services in our state.

This program's authorization expired on September 30th and we fear that continued delay only hurts the at-risk populations that MIECHV is designed to protect. The expiration will cause states to freeze enrollment of new families, discontinue services to currently enrolled families, and close existing programs altogether. This will result in a waste of MIECHV dollars and have a destabilizing impact for families and state agencies. States need secure funding for evidence-based home visiting; it is extremely challenging for localities to deliver these programs to families if future funding is uncertain.





The clock is ticking. Every second that Congress waits is a second closer to lost services and lost jobs. MIECHV must be reauthorized for five years at no less than its current funding level to provide states, territories and tribes with the stability they need to continue to provide high-quality services that produce the important child and family outcomes that have become the cornerstone of evidence-based home visiting and the MIECHV program. More information on MIECHV can be found here: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/home-visiting-program-state-fact-sheets>

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at **INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.**

Sincerely,
NAME