



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
2309 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1011 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chairman Neal, and Ranking Member Brady,

We are a coalition of membership organizations representing the nation's governors, state legislatures, counties, cities and state and local public health agencies and are writing to urge you to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting (MIECHV) program. MIECHV provides grants to states to support evidence-based home visiting programs for at risk pregnant women and families. The program serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal entities, and the US territories, and supported 71,000 families in FY 20, 70% of whom had household income at or below the 100% of the Federal Poverty guidelines.¹ The current authorization is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2022.

MIECHV was last authorized for five years as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 following a nearly six-month gap in funding. That experience taught the nation that lapses in funding create churn in the workforce as nurses and other members of the MIECHV workforce

¹ <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/about-us/program-brief.pdf>

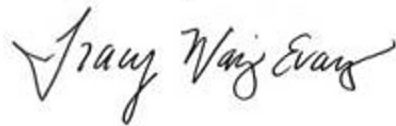
seek out other employment due to concerns that their jobs may be eliminated—a result that negatively impacted state and local agencies in 2017/2018. Additionally, some state legislatures halted the flow of funds to agency award recipients during the lapse of the statute because of uncertainty regarding their authority to continue to disburse MIECHV funds. This left some agencies unable to fill vacant positions or enroll new families into the program.

We know that Congress has been working to reauthorize MIECHV for another five years and has held briefings and a hearing. However, with fewer than 30 days before expiration of the program, concerns about continuity and the ability to continue to serve thousands of families across the country, are mounting. We urge you to reauthorize funding for this vital program that has improved maternal and child health and welfare outcomes since MIECHV's inception in 2010.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Lauren Kallins at lauren.kallins@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wareing Evans



President and CEO
American Public Human Services Association

David Adkins



Executive Director/CEO
Council of State Governments

Chris Morrill



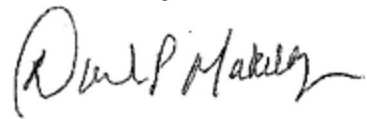
Executive Director
Government Finance Officers Association

Marc A. Ott



Executive Director
International City/County Management Association

Dan Makelky



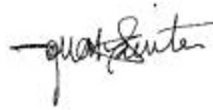
President
National Association of County Human Services Administrators

Matthew D. Chase



Executive Director
National Association of Counties

Ron Painter



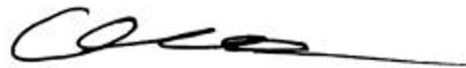
President and CEO
National Association of Workforce Boards

Tim Storey



Chief Executive Officer
National Conference of State Legislatures

Clarence E. Anthony



Executive Director and CEO
National League of Cities

Tom Cochran



Executive Director & CEO
United States Conference of Mayors

Bill McBride



Executive Director
National Governors Association

CC:

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Rep. Jackie Walorski, Ranking Member
Rep. Brad Wenstrup
Rep. Judy Chu
Rep. Gwen Moore

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