



**Prevent Child Abuse
America®**

September 16, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
Chairman
Worker and Family Support Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Acting Ranking Member
Worker and Family Support Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Chairwoman
Health Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairman Davis, Acting Ranking Member Wenstrup, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Chairwoman Eshoo, and Ranking Member Guthrie:

On behalf of Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) and Healthy Families America (HFA), thank you for your committed bipartisan work supporting and strengthening families through the reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. We are excited to endorse the *Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022*.

PCA America is the nation's oldest and largest organization committed to preventing child abuse and neglect before it happens. We promote programs and resources informed by science that enable kids, families, and entire communities to thrive—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. PCA America includes a nationwide network of state chapters and one of the most widely implemented home visiting programs in the country, Healthy Families America (HFA). With nearly 600 evidence-based program sites, HFA supports families in their homes and focuses on building nurturing, safe and secure relationships between parent and child to maximize opportunities for all children— and parents— to reach their full potential.



By intervening to prevent adversity and build resilience during a child's most critical years of development, voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs like HFA have shown positive impact on reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, decreased pre-term births and low-birthweight babies, improved school readiness for children, and increased high school graduation rates.

As a member of the national Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee, we join with other organizations in support of this timely and meaningful reauthorization of MIECHV. This bill will make a crucial investment in our children and families. This investment will help communities to serve more families who need this support, while also strengthening the workforce who delivers these critical services every day.

In addition, by doubling the tribal set-aside, the MIECHV program will be able to expand its reach in underserved American Indian and Alaska Native communities and better address historical inequities. The bill's provisions to allow virtual home visiting, promote transparency, and reduce the administrative burden will further advance high quality services and improve the program's impact on the lives of children and families.

Importantly, this bill honors the late Ranking Member Jackie Walorski, a true champion of the MIECHV program. Her work alongside Chairman Davis and their joint commitment to a bipartisan reauthorization has resulted in a bill that will move the MIECHV program and the entire home visiting field forward. This is a great tribute to Congresswoman Walorski who cared deeply and was committed to ensuring children and families in her state and across this country have access to high quality home visiting programs.

Thank you again for your dedicated efforts to come to a bipartisan agreement on the reauthorization of MIECHV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa T. Merrick'.

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD
President and CEO
Prevent Child Abuse America

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Strader'.

Kathleen Strader
National Director
Healthy Families America