

FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
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March 16, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Senators Inouye and Cochran and Representatives Obey and Lewis:

As organizations striving to improve the health of all women, children, and families in America, we urge your support for an appropriation of \$730 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in FY 2011. This funding is needed to enable states to provide vital public health and health care services to millions of pregnant women, infants and children, including those with special health care needs.

As the only Federal program that focuses solely on improving the health of all mothers and children, the MCH Block Grant provides a wide range of health services and fosters the prevention of disease and disabling conditions. State health agencies use MCH Block Grant funds to reduce infant mortality, provide women with prenatal and postnatal care, screen newborns for genetic and hereditary conditions, support expansion of medical homes, and prevent childhood injuries. Block grant funds also allow states to address critical needs including the training of health professionals, development of comprehensive systems for community-based services, and the testing and evaluation of innovative practices.

In addition, MCH programs work in coordination with state Medicaid agencies, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC), community health centers and other programs serving this population. This collaboration ensures that every dollar is used to provide necessary services without duplication.

Seven years ago, the MCH Block Grant was funded at \$731 million. Despite an authorization level of \$850 million, the FY 2010 omnibus appropriations bill flat-funded MCH Block Grant funding at \$662 million, its lowest level since 1993. This reduction is threatening the progress states have made in improving the health of mothers, children, and families. The reduction of federal support for this vital program in recent years also represents an alarming gap in the Federal-State partnership needed to assure the health of all women, children, and families in the America. Without additional resources, state Maternal and Child Health programs will not be able to meet the increasing demand for services and assure that all mothers and their children will have access to high quality health services.

We strongly urge you to fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$730 million. For additional information on MCH programs in your state please contact Joshua Brown at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs at 202-266-3042 or jbrown@amchp.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

American Academy of Pediatrics

Association of Schools of Public Health

American College of Nurse-Midwives

Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Association of State & Territorial Directors of Nursing

American Optometric Association

Association of State & Territorial Health Officials

American Pediatric Association

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

American Pediatric Society

American Public Health Association

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

American Public Health Laboratories

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Autism Society of America

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Children's Dental Health Project

Child Welfare League of America

CityMatch	National Coalition of STD Directors
Coalition on Human Needs	National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists	National Health Law Program
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children	National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
Easter Seals	National Healthy Start Association
Education Development Center	National WIC Association
Epilepsy Foundation	National Women's Law Center
Family Voices	Nurse Family Partnership
First Focus Campaign for Children	Pew Home Visiting Campaign
Infant Toddler Coordinators Association	Planned Parenthood Federation of America
March of Dimes	Prevent Child Abuse America
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care	RESULTS
National Association of Children's Hospitals	SAIC
National Association of County and City Health Officials	Society for Pediatric Research
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems	The ARC of the United States
	United Cerebral Palsy
	Voices for America's Children

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Members
House Appropriations Committee Members