

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN

May 23, 2017

Reauthorization and Expansion of Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program

The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program is an evidence-based program designed to strengthen families and help children to thrive. MIECHV was established in 2010 through the Affordable Care Act and is jointly administered by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Administration for Children and Families. The program provides a comprehensive array of resources and supports for pregnant women, families, and at-risk parents of children under the age of five, and is designed to improve the coordination of these services and the overall outcomes for these families. MIECHV supports evidence-based home visiting in all 50 states, 6 territories, and with numerous tribes and tribal organizations.

Studies demonstrate that voluntary evidence-based home visiting programs produce a broad spectrum of positive multigenerational outcomes for children and parents, including improvements in prenatal care and birth outcomes; early childhood

MOTION

Solis _____

Kuehl _____

Hahn _____

Barger _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

health and development; school readiness; parenting practices and economic stability; while also reducing child abuse, neglect and injury; juvenile delinquency and crime; and dependence on public assistance.

Preliminary outcomes show that MIECHV is working. In May 2016, a Report to Congress on the progress of MIECHV indicated that 81 percent of states reported improvements in maternal and newborn health, 85 percent saw improvements in school readiness, 85 percent identified improvements in family economic self-sufficiency, and 70 percent reported improvements in reducing domestic violence and crime. These multigenerational outcomes not only contribute to strong families, but also strengthen our national economy and security.

Despite these benefits, however, MIECHV serves only a fraction of the children and families in need nationally and locally. With expanded, stable funding, MIECHV could serve hundreds of thousands of children and families across our nation, enabling them to lead healthier, more prosperous lives, and allowing state and federal government to see returns on their investments.

MIECHV funding was extended in 2016 by the Medicare Access and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act which provided \$372.4 million in appropriations for FY 2017. There is no further funding for the program, however, after September 30, 2017. We believe that the children of Los Angeles County deserve nothing less than a strong start in life and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Support the reauthorization of the MIECHV program for 5 years;
- 2) Support the increase of funding from \$400 million annually to \$800 million

annually to allow states, territories and tribes to expand these services to more children and families; and

- 3) Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation expressing the Board's strong support for the continuation and expansion of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation program.

S: LP/ Reauthorization and Expansion of Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program