

FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM
c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
2030 M. Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 Tel: 202-775-0436

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
LHHS Subcommittee
US Senate
Washington DC

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
LHHS Subcommittee
US Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
LHHS Subcommittee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
LHHS Subcommittee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 29, 2012

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at a minimum **\$645 million** for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the **fiscal year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriation bill**. This funding request is level with fiscal year 2012 and represents an \$85 million decrease since fiscal year 2003. Further reductions to the Title V MCH Block Grant will dramatically impact the health of women, infants and children including those with special health care needs. These vulnerable populations have already been affected by federal, state and local budget cuts. The undersigned organizations call upon Congress to sustain funding for this program.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is one of the longest and most efficient federal and state programs solely focused on improving the health of all mothers and children. In 2009 alone the Title V MCH Block Grant served 40 million pregnant women, infants and children. Funding from this program is used to provide 59 states and jurisdictions the resources to identify and develop maternal and child health programs with a particular focus on poor, minority and underserved women and children who experience disparities in health status and outcomes. Landmark projects funded through the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) component of the program include: guidelines for child health supervision from infancy through adolescence; nutrition care during pregnancy and lactation; recommended standards for prenatal care; successful

strategies for the prevention of childhood injuries; health safety standards for out of home childcare facilities, and training of the next generation of leaders in the MCH field.

Tragically, every year nearly 28,000 babies will die before their first birthday. According to the Institute of Medicine, infants who are born preterm cost our society an estimated \$26.2 billion per year. Moreover, many of the chronic conditions that plague our country today begin during pregnancy and childhood. By identifying health issues affecting women and children early, the Title V MCH block grant helps save money by ensuring that people receive preventive services to avoid more costly chronic conditions in the long run.

Accordingly, we must preserve this historic program and urge you to fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$645 million. For additional information on MCH programs in your state please contact Carolyn Mullen at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs at 202-266-3045 or cmullen@amchp.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
Academic Pediatric Association
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
American Pediatric Society
American Public Health Association
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Beckett Family Consulting
Brighter Beginnings
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
The Child Welfare League of America
CityMatch
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
March of Dimes
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Healthy Start Association
National WIC Association
Nurse-Family Partnership
Prevent Blindness America
Safe States Alliance
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Voices for America's Children
Zero to Three