



Parents as Teachers™



April 8, 2014

The Honorable Representative Danny Davis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Davis,

I am writing to voice my concern regarding testimony for the April 2 House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. In his written testimony, witness Jon Baron, President of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, included a direct negative reference to Parents as Teachers (PAT), when he cited it as a program that “produced no important effects one way or the other.” I believe we were singled out unfairly, and we would like the opportunity to paint the full picture of the important results PAT has produced over the last three decades and the critical role it plays in the MIECHV program.

Parents as Teachers has a strong 30-year history of providing parenting education and family engagement services, and now reaches families in all 50 states and more than 100 tribal communities. PAT's approach and curriculum support the most vulnerable families and has demonstrated outcomes in child development and school readiness, family economic self-sufficiency, positive parenting practices and reductions in child maltreatment. PAT has been chosen by local communities and agencies in 30 states and 13 tribes to provide these services with MIECHV funds.

PAT delivers an evidence-based approach for home visiting and supports federal investments in interventions that deliver results. Through its Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) review, the Department of Health and Human Services conducted a thorough and transparent review of the home visiting research literature and provided an assessment of the evidence of effectiveness for home visiting program models that target families with pregnant women and children from birth to age 5. Parents as Teachers meets the HomVEE criteria, with favorable outcomes in four of the six measured outcome domains. PAT also had the lowest average cost per family compared to several other home visiting models in a recent Mathematica Policy Research study.

Additionally, Parents as Teachers' MIECHV programs, along with three other models, currently are being rigorously evaluated through the MIHOPE study. PAT also is engaged in a rigorous evaluation of implementation in tribal communities through a Department of Education Investing in Innovations grant. Finally, in addition to the statistically significant results from four randomized control trials, we have 23 years of independent evaluations of home-based PAT programs that demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach, and local and state evaluations have found positive

**Board of Directors
2013–2014**

Officers

Thomas C. Melzer
(Chair), MO

Patricia Kempthorne
(Vice Chair), ID

Rick Sems
(Secretary), MO

Donald D. Roberts
(Treasurer), MO

Members

Christopher “Kit” Bond
(Life Member), MO

T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.
(Life Member), MA

Sheila Casey, DC

Maxine Clark, MO

Brad Cowan, MO

Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D., VA

Luis A. Hernandez, FL

Stephanie M. Jones, Ph.D., MA

Colleen A. Kraft, M.D., VA

Carolyn W. Losos
(Life Member), MO

Arthur L. Mallory, Ed.D.
(Life Member), MO

Mary Anne Mathews, SC

David L. Morley, MO

Janet Newton, KS

Jane K. Paine
(Life Member), MO

G. Julie Palmer-Blackwell,
Ed.D., NC

Karabelle Pizzigati, Ph.D., MD

Don Senti, Ph.D., MO

Josefina Tinajero, Ed.D., TX

Sharon Wells, NM

Edward F. Zigler, Ph.D.
(Life Member), CT

President/CEO

Scott Hippert, MO

Ex-Officio Members

Governor Jay Nixon, MO

Commissioner of Education,
Chris L. Nicastro, Ph.D., MO

Founding Director

Mildred Winter

Our Vision: All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

2228 Ball Drive Saint Louis, Missouri 63146 p 314.432.4330 f 314.432.8963 www.ParentsAsTeachers.org



results in outcomes relevant to school success, including school achievement, attendance and out-of-school suspension.

Unlike other models which serve only first-time moms, single parent or teens, PAT affiliates engage with families in a much broader way. We work with families as early as during pregnancy and on through kindergarten entry. Our program is culturally adaptable to work in many different environments. In short, we engage with a broader array of families, in ways that are best-suited to their family environment, and over a longer period of time, to ensure greater depth of knowledge and increased likelihood of continued positive outcomes.

We could not be more proud of our history, our effectiveness with families, and our evidence-based model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott L. Hippert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Scott Hippert
President/CEO
Parents as Teachers