



*5,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
Prosecutors, Other Law Enforcement
Leaders, and Violence Survivors
Preventing Crime and Violence*

Facsimile Transmission

To: Chairman Rangel

From: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Committee on Ways and Means

Fax: 202-225-2610

Pages: 3

Phone: 202-225-3625

Date: 7/16/09

Re: Home Visiting in Health Reform

CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

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Founder



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July 16, 2009

Via Facsimile

The Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller, Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rangel, Waxman, and Miller:

The more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, attorneys general, other law enforcement leaders, and victims of violence who are members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS know from the front lines in the fight against crime—and the research—that high-quality early investments in kids have a powerful impact on reducing later crime. We are extremely pleased that the “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009” (H.R. 3200) includes \$750 million in new guaranteed funding for quality, evidence-based home visiting programs, as well as language establishing evidence-based nurse home visiting as an optional Medicaid service. We look forward to working with you as the three Committees consider this legislation to ensure these programs are able to help more kids get the right start in life.

Kids need protection from the devastating consequences of child abuse and neglect. In 2007, there were 794,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect and 1,760 deaths. These statistics are alarming enough on their own, but research shows the true number of victims (including those never reported to authorities) may be well over 2 million. Children who survive abuse or neglect carry the emotional scars for life. The best available research indicates that, based on the confirmed cases of abuse and neglect in just one year, an additional 30,000 children will become violent criminals and 200 will become murderers as adults as a direct result of the abuse and neglect they endured.

As you know, evidence-based home visiting programs can help break this cycle by preventing abuse and neglect and reducing later crime and violence. They offer frequent, voluntary home visits by trained professionals who help at-risk new parents get the information, skills, and support they need to raise healthy and safe kids. Trained home visiting professionals teach new parents about proper childcare, coach them on responding to their child’s needs, and offer support and referrals to other needed services where appropriate.

Evidence-based home visiting programs produce proven results for at-risk kids and their families. For example, one program, the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), randomly assigned interested at-risk pregnant women to receive visits by nurses starting before the

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birth of a first child and continuing until the child was age two. Rigorous research, originally published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, shows the program cut abuse and neglect among at-risk kids nearly in half. In addition, children of mothers who received the coaching had 60% fewer arrests by age 15 than the children of mothers who were not coached.

Other home visiting models also produce positive results. For example, a study of the Healthy Families home visiting program in New York (HFNY) found that mothers in the program reported committing one-fourth as many acts of serious physical abuse as the mothers not receiving services. A study of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) model found that when teen mothers received PAT services, combined with referrals to needed psychological, health, nutritional, or educational services, the percentage of participating families investigated for child abuse or neglect was zero (compared with 2.4% of non-participating families).

We are pleased that the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act" will invest \$750 million in guaranteed funding over 5 years to implement the initiative proposed by President Obama to establish and expand quality programs providing voluntary home visiting to assist families with young children, and families expecting children, especially in high-need communities. We are also pleased that this legislation establishes evidence-based nurse home visitation as an optional service for coverage under Medicaid.

These investments are an important step toward ending the cycle of crime and violence in our country. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and for your commitment to ensuring kids get the start they need in life. We look forward to working closely with you to enact this guaranteed funding for evidence-based home visiting programs.

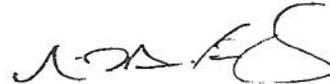
Sincerely,



David S. Kass
President



Miriam A. Rollin
Chief Operating Officer



Nick Alexander
Federal Policy Director