



February 15, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Re: 21-day amendments

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York State Home Visiting Coalition, we are writing to urge you to fully restore funding for home visiting in the 21-day amendments. The Healthy Families New York (HFNY) home visiting program is in danger of elimination because of its inclusion in the Primary Prevention Incentive Program (PIIP) proposed in the 2011 Executive Budget.

In addition, funding streams that support the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) -- Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) and the Hoyt Family Trust, respectively -- are included in the PIIP and face elimination.

On January 21, at an event at Marist College, you said, "There is going to be, no doubt, a period of short-term pain as we make these adjustments. I believe it's for a period of long-term gain." We respectfully disagree. In this case, short-term gain is long-term pain for children and families.

The establishment of the PIIP, intended to prevent unnecessary foster care placements and other more costly supports, would have the opposite impact. It would spark a slow burning fire. Children and families would go unserved because the PIIP would only reinvest 50% of the savings from restructuring, would pit programs that serve different populations against each other, and would require a 38% match from counties that they do not have. It would dismantle the state system, which is essential to localities providing services. Vulnerable families that go unserved in the earliest years often need costly remediation services later on.

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Any reduction in funding for home visiting will also disqualify New York State from applying for millions of dollars in federal aid by not meeting Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements. We cannot pass up these much-needed resources, which would help us expand and improve our existing system.

New York State is a leader for home visiting in the U.S. and HFNY is often used as a model for other states. It has taken New York nearly 20 years to build this system of home visiting supports and services. Once the infrastructure (including research, training, central administration and on-the-ground services) has been destroyed, it will take years to rebuild.

Please visit:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/reports/NII%20ReportFINAL%20REPORT%2011-29-2010.pdf> to see SUNY Albany's randomized trial of HFNY, which demonstrates the program's short- and long-term benefits to children and families.

Please visit: <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/proven-results> to see NFP's short- and long-term outcomes from its three randomized, controlled trials.

We urge you to rethink the PPIP and fully restore funding for HFNY, COPS, and the Hoyt Family Trust.

Thank you.

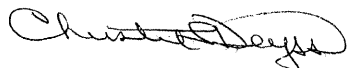
Sincerely,



Kate Breslin, President & CEO
Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy



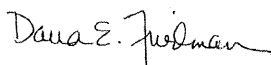
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Sarah E. Walzer, Executive Director
The Parent-Child Home Program, Inc.

cc: Kristin Proud, Senator Diane Savino, Assembly Member Amy Paulin, Todd Scheuermann