



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY STATE HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, some of our nation’s costliest social problems—such as child abuse and neglect, school failure, poverty, unemployment and crime—are rooted in early childhood; and

WHEREAS, a child’s most critical brain development occurs before age 5; and

WHEREAS, young children’s development and learning are affected by the family and community, and such development incorporates cognitive, social emotional, language and physical health; and

WHEREAS, high-quality home visiting matches parents on a voluntary basis with trained professionals to provide information and support during pregnancy and through their child’s earliest years, encouraging positive parenting, healthy child development and family economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based home visiting programs serving high-risk populations—including low income, single and teen parents—generate nearly twice the returns of programs serving all families,ⁱ according to one cost-benefit analysis; and

WHEREAS, a scientifically rigorous study demonstrates that high-quality home visiting programs—which have had a presence in the U.S. for more than of 30 years—return up to \$5.70 per taxpayer dollar invested.ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, economists have studied and strongly support home visiting as a sound public investment; and

WHEREAS, home visiting can help reduce low birth weightsⁱⁱⁱ, which can cost states upwards of \$40,000 each in medical care and other costs^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that mothers who participated in home visits were more sensitive and supportive in interactions with their children,^v reported less stress,^{vi} and had improved parenting behaviors and parenting attitudes;^{vii} and

WHEREAS, by helping parents understand their children’s development, set realistic expectations for behavior and improve the safety of their homes, home visiting programs have been shown to cut incidences of child abuse and neglect in half;^{viii} and

WHEREAS, nearly every state and the District of Columbia offered voluntary home visiting in FY2010, making available nearly \$1.4 billion for these services.^{ix};

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, members of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) recognize the value to families and taxpayers of evidence-based home visiting. Members support improving the quality of and expanding access to voluntary state home visiting programs.

As introduced this 23rd day of June, 2011.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown (MD)

Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy (NE)

Co-Sponsors: Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts (RI)

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ⁱ L. A. Karoly, et al., "Investing in Our Children: What We Know and Don't Know About the Costs and Benefits of Early Childhood Interventions," *RAND Corporation*, (1998). www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR898/; J. Isaacs, "Cost-Effective Investments in Children," *Budgeting for National Priorities*, (January 2007). www.brookings.edu/views/papers/200701isaacs.pdf

ⁱⁱ L. A. Karoly, M. R. Kilburn, and J. S. Cannon, *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise* (Santa Monica, CA: The RAND Corporation, 2005).

ⁱⁱⁱ E. Lee, et al., "Reducing Low Birth Weight Through Home Visitation: A Randomized Controlled Trial," *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* 36 (2009): 154–160.

^{iv} Partnership for America's Economic Success, "Delivering Healthier Babies and Economic Returns," (December 2009). www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/200912_00609PAESLongtermCostsBriefpressproof.pdf.

^v Administration for Children and Families. *Making a Difference in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers and Their Families: The Impacts of Early Head Start* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002).

D. Olds, et al., "Home Visiting by Paraprofessionals and by Nurses: A Randomized Controlled Trial." *Pediatrics* 110 (2002): 486–49.

^{vi} J. Love, et al., "The Effectiveness of Early Head Start for 3-Year-Old Children and Their Parents: Lessons for Policies and Programs," *Developmental Psychology* 41 (2005): 885–901.

^{vii} M. Sweet and M. Appelbaum. "Is Home Visiting an Effective Strategy? A Meta-Analytic Review of Home Visiting Programs for Families with Young Children," *Child Development* 75 (2004): 1435–1456.

^{viii} Nurse Family Partnership, "Evidentiary Foundations of Nurse Family Partnership" (accessed April 7, 2010).

www.nursefamilypartnership.org/assets/PDF/Policy/NFP-Evidentiary-Standards_4-28-09.

^{ix} Pew Center on the States, Home Visiting Inventory- National Overview (Funding Strategies), 2010, http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=61054