

June 20, 2016

President Barack Obama & Vice President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

We applaud your administration's leadership in expanding health coverage and promoting the triple aim of improved health quality, improved population health, and reduced per capita health care costs. We also applaud your work to expand early childhood programs and services and to reduce poverty and its particularly harmful impacts upon children.

We are calling on your leadership again to take action, through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, to catalyze further innovations to improve child health trajectories in the earliest years through responding to social, as well as biomedical determinants of health. We believe there is a critical need and opportunity to better respond to young children by strengthening the capacity of their parents to provide safe, stable, and nurturing home environments. We also believe that such responses hold the key to improving population health and reducing the prevalence of chronic health conditions that assume the great share of health costs. We believe they also will improve children's readiness for success in school and future success in life, thereby reducing poverty and its impacts over the next generation.

We recommend your administration establish a \$300 million Federal Opportunity Announcement for Young Children, through the existing funding for CMMI, to support primary child health practice innovations to improve child health trajectories. While children are not drivers of current health costs, improving their health trajectories is essential to reducing the presence of chronic conditions in adulthood that are and will continue to drive health costs in the future. Such an FOA will catalyze and activate additional child health champions, expand the knowledge base on effective child health practice and its integration into health payment systems, and provide guidance to further health transformations needed to achieve the triple aim.

An FOA can be established through executive order and without the need for additional Congressional

action. It is consistent with your administration's core commitment to improving child health and early development and education. It will energize the primary child health field to reach its mission of improving health and not just preventing disease. Most importantly, it will benefit millions of young children and give them a brighter future.

Respectfully submitted,

National Health Advisory Board on Health Equity and Young Children

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