

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Writing an LTE for your local or regional newspaper is a great way to get the attention of your elected officials and reach a large audience in your community. Elected officials' staff monitor their local newspapers every day and track the mood and views of voters.

To the Editor:

As a [PARENT, GRANDPARENT, TEACHER, ETC.], I know how important a child's early years are. Those crucial years are the most important in ensuring children are set up for success in school and in life. [INSERT EXAMPLE OR STORY OF WHY ECE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND HOW IT HAS HELPED YOUR FAMILY].

But not all children and families have the necessary supports to provide their children with the tools they need to thrive during those early years. That's why the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) is so vital. This program has a proven track record, and the benefits are far reaching: at-risk parents and children who receive voluntary home visits have better health, education and economic outcomes.

Unfortunately, funding for MIECHV ends in September. It must urgently be reauthorized to meet the growing need and ensure families keep getting critical support. Estimates show MIECHV reached less than five percent of eligible families – and that was before COVID-19 exacerbated issues for so many across the country. Now, even more families desperately need the support MIECHV offers.

Join me and Save the Children Action Network in urging [NAME OF POLICYMAKER] to increase funding for MIECHV. All children – no matter their socio-economic background – deserve to get the best possible start in life. And home visiting ensures that they do.

[NAME]

[CITY]

Tips for a Successful Letter to the Editor

1. Keep it between 150-250 words long.
2. Include a personal story that demonstrates why you're passionate about the issue.
3. Make an "ask" to your Members of Congress, in this case: reauthorizing MIECHV.
4. Many newspapers have submission forms on their website.
5. Ask for support! You can reach out to your State Manager to support you every step of the way: writing, editing, submitting and more!

