



To: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
From: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Nurse-Family Partnership
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Date: June 17, 2025
RE: **Support Home Visiting in Wisconsin Alternative 1 in LFB Paper #224**

We encourage support for **Alternative 1 in LFB Paper #224**, which includes a targeted investment of **\$5.2 million** to expand Wisconsin's Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) program. This voluntary, evidence-based program provides in-home support from nurses, social workers, and parent educators to help families build strong, healthy foundations. Research shows that for every \$1 invested, up to **\$5.70 can be saved** through reduced ER visits, child protection interventions, special education referrals, and improved long-term outcomes. Research also shows that evidence-based home-visiting programs can reduce long term dependency on government assistance programs such as Medicaid and SNAP and reduce the likelihood that the parents and children who participate in the program will have contact with the criminal justice system.

Despite its effectiveness, FFHV currently serves only **2,172 families across 40 counties and 6 tribes**, leaving **71% of eligible families without access**. Expanding the program will increase reach in underserved areas, including rural and tribal communities and communities hit hard by hospital closures, using a model that is already in place and working. This is a smart investment in early prevention that supports family stability while maximizing taxpayer value.

Now is the time to invest in a program that's working. By supporting Alternative 1, the committee can help more Wisconsin families access a proven service that strengthens parenting, improves long-term outcomes, and saves taxpayer dollars. This is a practical, measured step that will deliver real value to families and communities across the state.