For Immediate Release
July 12, 2017

Contact information:
Rob Edwards
rob.edwards@parentsasteachers.org
314-432-4330 ext. 1284

National Non-Profit Headquartered in St. Louis Calls on Congress to Act Quickly to Preserve, Expand Home Visiting to Strengthen Families

Hundreds of organizations send letter to Congress, launch ad campaign on national Day of Action in support of parent coaching proven to help children succeed

St. Louis, MO – As the clock runs down on critical support for families and children, Parents as Teachers National Center is urging Congress to act swiftly to preserve and expand the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. This voluntary, evidence-based program, also known as MIECHV, will expire on September 30 if Congress fails to act.

Today, Parents as Teachers joined the national Home Visiting Coalition and hundreds of organizations representing thousands of Americans in a day of action, which included a public letter to Congress, a full-page advertisement in a widely read Capitol Hill publication, and a storm of phone calls, tweets and other activities that demonstrated the groundswell of passion and commitment around this issue.

Parents as Teachers National Center, headquartered in St. Louis, and others are asking that MIECHV be reauthorized for five years with increased funding to reach $800 million annually in order to meet the needs of children and families. Advocates also stress that the existing flexible structure of the program should remain in place to continue to allow state and local leaders to make the best possible decisions for their own communities.

“Congress must act soon. MIECHV supports local Parents as Teachers programs for families in 35 states and in 13 tribal communities,” said Constance Gully, President and CEO of Parents as Teachers National Center. “Home visiting is a proven investment that leads to better outcomes for families, kids and communities and significant cost-savings for state budgets over time.” Of the 19 evidence-based home visiting models operating in the United States, Parents as Teachers is the most widely replicated.

Parents as Teachers is a scientifically proven intervention that improves outcomes for children and families. It boosts early childhood health and development, school readiness, and parenting practices, reduces child abuse and neglect, and increases family self-sufficiency.

###

About the Home Visiting Coalition: The Home Visiting Coalition is a diverse group of organizations committed to the well-being of children, working to promote continued federal support of home visiting to strengthen families in communities across the country. Voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs improve the health, development, and education of young children. These programs set the stage for children and families to become self-sufficient and successful.
About Parents as Teachers: Parents as Teachers National Center, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn by matching families with trained parent educator during a child’s earliest years in life. Its internationally recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of scientifically-proven outcomes for children and families. Parents as Teachers currently partners with local organizations in all 50 U.S. states, 113 Tribal organizations, and in five other countries and one U.S. territory to serve 123,468 families. Parents as Teachers programs operate in various settings, including schools, health departments and non-profit organizations. For more information, visit ParentsAsTeachers.org.