ST. LOUIS, MO: Constance Gully, President and CEO of the St. Louis-headquartered, international Parents as Teachers home visiting model, sent a letter today to House and Senate Leadership, the House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee and each Member of the Missouri Congressional delegation in response to yesterday’s proposed House FY 2018 Continuing Resolution (CR).

Ms. Gully expressed profound concern at the continued exclusion of funding for the federal home visiting program in the proposed CR. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program expired on September 30, 2017 alongside the Children’s Health Insurance Program and other programs critical to children and families.

“Parents as Teachers’ top priority is to ensure reauthorization of the MIECHV program before the impact of its expiration fully impacts the families, communities, and programs implementing the services. We cannot afford to squander the critical investment Congress has made over the past seven years to build infrastructure for home visiting in every state and in tribal communities. I once again ask that you reauthorize MIECHV immediately, for the sake of our children and families,” said Ms. Gully.

“The MIECHV program has always enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support in Congress. Now we’re starting to hear from several states that programs are planning for enrollment freezes or worse. State budgets can’t make up for continued delay,” said Alison Gee, VP of Government and Community Engagement.

Parents as Teachers is a member of the National Home Visiting Coalition, that also issued a strong statement today. The group is asking Congress to reauthorize the program for five years at no less than level funding. Congressional negotiations were linked to other health extenders, CHIP, and other vital programs for families. Numerous research studies show that Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model improves school readiness, reduces child
maltreatment, improves parenting skills and parent involvement and leads to improved family health and functioning.

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**About Parents as Teachers**

Parents as Teachers, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, builds strong communities, thriving families and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn by matching families with trained parent educators during a child’s earliest years in life. It’s internationally recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of scientifically-proven outcomes for children and families and is replicated by local organizations in all 50 U.S. states, 115 Tribal organizations, five other countries and one U.S. territory to serve 123,000 families. Parents as Teachers affiliates operate in various settings, including schools, health departments, faith-based and non-profit organizations. For more information, visit [parentsasteachers.org](http://parentsasteachers.org).

Click link to read the letter to Congress: [http://bit.ly/2FRJH2s](http://bit.ly/2FRJH2s)