

November 14, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As leading national organizations dedicated to making children a priority, we are writing to urge you to make a strong investment in children in your upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request.

The federal government provides critical support for the development of children in areas of health, education, nutrition, safety, and economic security, among many others. However, federal outlays in children are projected to slowly decline as a share of the economy over the next decade nearly 20 percent (from 2.1 percent in 2013 to 1.7 percent of GDP in 2024), according to the *Kids' Share 2014* report by the Urban Institute.

We have been greatly encouraged by your previous budget requests that would have increased the federal investment dedicated to our nation's children, if they had been fully enacted by Congress. It is critical that your Administration continues your leadership of investing in our nation's children.

Children represent one-quarter of the population, yet the share of federal funding directed toward children has declined and today amounts to less than 8 percent of the overall budget. Increasing funding for programs that benefit our children is not only meaningful to them now, but improves their chances for a better future. Therefore, we believe children deserve every consideration in your upcoming FY 2016 budget submission to Congress.

Thank you for your leadership in investing our nation's children. Your steadfast commitment to them is needed more than ever, and will certainly set the precedent for those who will follow in your footsteps.

Sincerely,

African American Health Alliance
Afterschool Alliance
Alabaster
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of Teachers
The Arc
The Cave Institute
Child Welfare League of America
The Children's Health Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Easter Seals

Feeding America
First Focus
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
MomsRising
National Advocacy Center on the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Social Workers
The National Child Abuse Coalition
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Crittenton Foundation
National Education Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National PTA
National Title I Association
National Women's Law Center
Public Advocacy for Kids
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Save the Children Action Network
School-Based Health Alliance
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way Worldwide
USAction

Cc: The Honorable Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget