SEQUESTRATION’S DEVASTATING CUTS TO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS: INDIANA

On January 2, 2013, federal agencies and programs that fund maternal and child health services and research will experience an across-the-board 8.2% cut under sequestration. These cuts will devastate the ability to deliver critical services to mothers and babies in need, disproportionately impact low-income and uninsured families, and deliver a major blow to local economies. Below is a snapshot of how Indiana women, infants, children and families will be impacted.

ACCESS

- **13,800 mothers and young children in Indiana will be cut from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.** WIC provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved healthcare and social service access for low and moderate-income women and children.

- **Cuts to the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program would worsen shortages in pediatric specialties, especially in rural areas.** This is funding the Nation relies on to train its next generation of pediatric physicians.

PREVENTION

- **Over $948,000 would be cut from the Indiana Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant.** This would result in 30,000 fewer women, children and families served in the state. The MCH block grant supports a myriad of initiatives designed to promote optimal health, reduce disparities, combat infant mortality, prevent chronic conditions, and improve access to quality health care in the state. It currently serves 2.2 million individuals in the state.

- **Over $517,000 would be cut from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, resulting in 2,000 fewer Indiana women being screened for cancer.** Roughly 4,142 cases of breast cancer and 231 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed every year in Indiana. This program – which helps low-income and uninsured women get access to cancer screenings – served over 23,178 women in Indiana over a 5-year period, catching over 347 cervical/pre-malignant cancers and 230 breast cancers.

- **Over $310,000 would be cut from the Indiana Section 317 Immunization Program, resulting in 4,300 fewer children getting vaccinations.** This program targets uninsured and low-income children who may not otherwise have access to life-saving vaccinations.

- **Indiana was 1 of 28 CDC-Funded Birth Defects Tracking Systems – funding decreases over the last decade has reduced the number of systems to only 14, and eliminated the program in Indiana.** Sequestration will eliminate 3 additional Birth Defects Tracking Systems. Annually, there are over 400 infants born with major birth defects in Indiana.

RESEARCH

- **Over $24 million in Indiana research funding could be cut from the National Institutes of Health.** Currently, about $261 million in NIH-funded awards goes to Indiana, supporting research at 33 institutions. These grants support local economies, contributing to over 11,950 jobs in biological sciences in Indiana and over $277 million invested by venture capital firms into biomedical firms between 2004 and 2009.

- **Over $1.3 million could be cut from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development – the NIH Institute that conducts a majority of the Nation’s federally-funded maternal and child health research.** Indiana is home to Indiana University and Purdue, two major research institutions studying projects related to adolescent health risks, steroids in pregnancy for neonatal benefit, as well as obesity. Research done at institutions in Indiana has led to 38 start-up companies in the past 15 years.