



February 2, 2015

Governor Nikki Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

We all want to see families thrive, but fragmented approaches that address the needs of children and their parents separately often leave either the child or parent behind and dim the family's chance at economic security and success. Two-generation approaches work with children and their parents *together, rather than in isolation*, to harness the family's full potential and put the whole family on a path to permanent economic security.

Over the past few years, we have seen powerful momentum build for two-generation policies in states across the country as communities seek new, innovative, and effective strategies for alleviating poverty. We are proud that a one reason for this momentum has been the pioneering work of our Aspen Institute Ascend Network, 58 organizations that are on the cutting edge of using two-generation approaches to create economic mobility for families.

Ascend at the Aspen Institute, a national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move vulnerable children and their parents toward educational success and economic security, recently released *Top 10 for 2 Gen: Policy Ideas and Principles to Advance Two Generation Efforts*, a report that outlines ten effective policies that federal and state policymakers can pursue immediately to help parents and children break out of the cycle of poverty. Informed by a growing field of innovative practitioners and policymakers, these policy recommendations span early education, post-secondary education, economic assets and health and well-being and can work within the existing legislative and funding landscape rather than seeking new funding or legislation.

Top 10 for 2 Gen anchors Ascend's Two Generation Policy Library. I am enclosing a copy in hopes that you and your staff find it a valuable resource as you consider policies that impact the educational success and economic well being of low-income families in your state.

In addition to *Top 10 for 2 Gen*, the Ascend Two-Generation Policy Library includes:

- ***Voices for Two Generation Success—Opportunities for Policy Change***, which highlights bipartisan polling and messaging analysis from public opinion experts, Celinda Lake and Vince Breglio that finds two-generation policies are strongly supported by American voters across party lines, gender, race and geography.
- ***Gateways to Two Generations: The Potential for Early Childhood Programs and Partnerships to Support Children and Their Parents Together***, which describes early childhood initiatives across the nation that support families' educational success and economic security.
- ***The Affordable Care Act: Affording Two-Generation Approaches to Health***, which outlines how the new law can promote the health and well-being as well as maximize opportunities for diagnosis, screening, and treatment of mental health for both parents and children.

We believe combined, these publications show the power and promise of two-generation strategies and their potential for creating a path toward an intergenerational cycle of opportunity.

If you would like to learn about Ascend, and how we might work together to strengthen strategies in your state to lift families out of poverty and ensure all children and their parents meet their full potential, please feel free to contact me or Rachel Pollock, Ascend's policy analyst (Rachel.pollock@aspeninstitute.org).

Sincerely,



Anne B. Mosle
Vice President, the Aspen Institute
Executive Director, Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

