



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2010

The Honorable Dave Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey, Ranking Member Lewis, and Ranking Member Tiahrt,

**Re: Head Start Appropriations for FY 2011**

We write to ask for your strong support of the Administration's budget request for Head Start and Early Head Start (collectively "Head Start") for FY 2011. Head Start prepares young children for success in school and later life by providing children and families with comprehensive early education, health, nutrition, child care, parent involvement, and social services. Studies show that children who participate in these programs are better prepared to enter elementary school than their peers and have a greater chance at success later in life.

Current Head Start funding levels, including funds provided under the Recovery Act, allow these programs to serve only 41 percent of eligible preschoolers and only about 4 percent of eligible infants and toddlers across the country. To ensure that the approximately 24,000 new jobs created through the Recovery Act funds are preserved, as well as the services provided to 14,000 additional three- and four- year old children in Head Start and 50,000 infants and toddlers in Early Head Start are continued, we need your support of the nearly \$1 billion additional funds for FY 2011 that President Obama outlined in his budget. **Without these funds, newly-created**

1651 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 739-0875 - Fax: (703) 739-0878 - [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org)

The National Head Start Association, an independent membership organization, advocates on behalf of the entire Head Start community and provides training and resources to Head Start programs nationwide.

**jobs will be lost and low-income children and families will lose services they are currently receiving through Head Start and Early Head Start programs across the country.** Further, Head Start parents who have the opportunity to attend job training or be in the workforce because they know their children are safe in a positive learning environment may be forced to quit so they can take care of their children themselves.

Importantly, if a Continuing Resolution results for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations for FY 2011, the \$1 billion still needs to be included. Otherwise, the gains and investments that Congress, the Senate, and the Administration fostered for Head Start will be lost and low-income children and families will suffer because Head Start expansion programs will cease. This would present additional hardships to thousands of communities across our country.

Continuing the nation's commitment to invest in Head Start will help low-income children and families to succeed and will provide assistance to numerous communities as they work through the devastating impact of the recent financial recession.

Sincerely,

National Head Start Association  
National Indian Head Start Directors Association  
National Migrant Seasonal Head Start Association

Region I Head Start Association  
Region II Head Start Association  
Region III Head Start Association  
Region IV Head Start Association  
Region V Head Start Association  
Region VI Head Start Association  
Region VII Head Start Association  
Region VIII Head Start Association  
Region IX Head Start Association  
Region X Head Start Association

Wisconsin Head Start Association  
California Head Start Association  
Kansas Head Start Association  
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP/Washington State Training Consortium  
New York State Head Start Association  
Alabama Head Start Association  
Alaska Head Start Association  
Arizona Head Start Association  
Arkansas Head Start Association  
Colorado Head Start Association  
Connecticut Head Start Association  
Delaware Head Start Association

District of Columbia Head Start Association  
Florida Head Start Association  
Georgia Head Start Association  
Hawaii Head Start Association  
Idaho Head Start Association  
Illinois Head Start Association  
Indiana Head Start Association  
Iowa Head Start Association  
Kentucky Head Start Association  
Maine Head Start Association  
Maryland Head Start Association  
Massachusetts Head Start Association  
Michigan Head Start Association  
Minnesota Head Start Association  
Mississippi Head Start Association  
Missouri Head Start Association  
Montana Head Start Association  
Nebraska Head Start Association  
Nevada Head Start Association  
New Hampshire Head Start Association  
New Jersey Head Start Association  
New Mexico Head Start Association  
North Carolina Head Start Association  
North Dakota Head Start Association  
Ohio Head Start Association  
Oklahoma Head Start Association  
Oregon Head Start Association  
Pennsylvania Head Start Association  
Rhode Island Head Start Association  
South Carolina State Head Start Association, Inc.  
South Dakota Head Start Association  
Tennessee Head Start Association  
Vermont Head Start Association  
Virginia Head Start Association  
West Virginia Head Start Association  
Wyoming Head Start Association

CC: Representative Norman Dicks  
Representative Alan Mollohan  
Representative Marcy Kaptur  
Representative Peter Visclosky  
Representative Nita Lowey  
Representative José Serrano  
Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Representative James Moran  
Representative John Olver  
Representative Ed Pastor

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Representative Jack Kingston  
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Representative Kay Granger  
Representative Michael Simpson  
Representative John Abney Culberson  
Representative Mark Steven Kirk  
Representative Ander Crenshaw  
Representative Dennis Rehberg  
Representative John Carter  
Representative Rodney Alexander  
Representative Ken Calvert  
Representative Jo Bonner  
Representative Steven LaTourette  
Representative Tom Cole  
Representative Linda Sanchez  
Representative Loretta Sanchez  
Representative Heath Shuler