



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice-Chairman Cochran, and Chairman Harkin,

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

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

Hawaii Head Start Association
Mississippi Head Start Association
Iowa Head Start Association
West Virginia Head Start Association
Alabama Head Start Association
Alaska Head Start Association
Arizona Head Start Association
Arkansas Head Start Association
California 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
Idaho Head Start Association
Illinois Head Start Association
Indiana Head Start Association
Kansas 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
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
New York State 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
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP/Washington State Training Consortium
Wisconsin Head Start Association
Wyoming Head Start Association

CC: Senator Robert Byrd
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Byron Dorgan
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Mary Landrieu

Senator Jack Reed
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator Ben Nelson
Senator Mike Pryor
Senator Jon Tester
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Christopher Bond
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Robert Bennett
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Sam Brownback
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Susan Collins
Senator George Voinovich
Senator Lisa Murkowski