



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**

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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
Louisiana 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
Texas 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
Representative David Price
Representative Chet Edwards
Representative Patrick Kennedy
Representative Maurice Hinchey
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard
Representative Sam Farr
Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Representative Carolyn Kilpatrick
Representative Allen Boyd
Representative Chaka Fattah
Representative Steven Rothman
Representative Sanford Bishop
Representative Marion Berry
Representative Barbara Lee
Representative Adam Schiff
Representative Michael Honda
Representative Betty McCollum
Representative Steve Israel
Representative Tim Ryan
Representative C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger
Representative Ben Chandler
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Representative Ciro Rodriguez
Representative Lincoln Davis
Representative John Salazar
Representative Patrick Murphy
Representative C.W. Bill Young
Representative Harold Rogers
Representative Frank Wolf
Representative Jack Kingston
Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen
Representative Zach Wamp
Representative Tom Latham
Representative Robert Aderholt
Representative JoAnn Emerson
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