

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patricia Murray  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Budget  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan:

On behalf of nation's infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and families, we write to urge you, in your deliberations on the Federal budget, to end the budget sequestration process and reverse its effects and to renew the nation's investments in our future. Sequestration has created great hardship to our young children and families, and in turn our communities, states and the nation. Instead, we need a new direction in the federal budget and this renewed investment must start with our greatest national resource: our children.

The science is clear: high quality early childhood education reaps educational and social benefits by less need for special education and lower rates of juvenile crime. The economics are clear: high quality early childhood education more than pays for itself and saves money in the long run.

Consistent with this effort, after sequestration has been addressed, we urge you to add significant new funding for early childhood consistent with the Senate's Budget Resolution.

The budget conference presents an opportunity to reverse the erosion of our national investments that has resulted from sequestration. Rather than deny 57,000 low-income and at-risk children access to Head Start services, your actions can create opportunities for the next generation of leaders and workers. Sequestration has hurt child care, early intervention, and many other supports that make it possible for young children and families to thrive. We believe it's critical that any final budget agreement protects programs that provide essential services to vulnerable children and families. Therefore, we ask that any agreement also

include discretionary spending levels sufficient to restore funds to these supports and make sure that after ending sequestration, there is a strong investment in early childhood education.

We urge this not just because it is right, but because it is supported by science. Starting on the first day of a child's life, positive early experiences establish a strong foundation upon which all later learning and healthy development is built. Smart public investments support our nation's families in laying this foundation.

It is time to work together find a bipartisan solution to our budget challenges without sacrificing the promise of our long-term prosperity. Children are the one special interest we can all agree on, and we must act today to ensure a stronger tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
The Undersigned