



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the National Head Start Association, I write today to thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of our nation's children and families. S. 1086, The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2013, is long overdue and we offer our full support of your considerable bipartisan effort to better protect and improve the health and safety of children in child care settings across America.

Since the Child Care and Development Block Grant was last authorized back in 1996, the field of early learning has experienced dramatic progress. Incorporating lessons learned from Head Start, innovative states, and emerging research, S. 1086 will help to further improve the aggregate level of quality across states. We look forward to working with you to realize these gains, and ensure that all children start early on their path to success.

In particular, we thank you for your work to strengthen Section 8 (b), which now allows States the flexibility to work with the Secretary on Health and Human Services on to waive, in limited circumstances, provisions of the CCDBG law that are conflicting or impossible due to extraordinary circumstances. We applaud your leadership in carefully crafting language that does not overly incentivize states to circumvent existing laws, within and out of CCDBG statute.

Head Start and Child Care have long collaborated at the local level—our programs work together to provide high-quality options for working parents. Congress has already made a considerable new investment in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships in order to expand access to quality early learning environments for infants and toddlers. We believe this legislation has the potential to strengthen these partnerships, offering at-risk children better opportunities to succeed.

We applaud you for working across the aisle to ensure children receive the very best early learning experiences while in safe child care. We stand ready to work with you as this legislation is implemented to keep low-income children on a path to success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yasmina Vinci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yasmina S. Vinci  
Executive Director

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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 programs nationwide.