



March 4, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Education & Labor Committee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

On behalf of nearly one million Head Start children and families and 270,000 staff, thank you and the House Committee on Education and Labor for responding to Head Start's needs by including \$1 billion for the Head Start program in the Committee's FY 21 reconciliation bill provisions. If passed and signed into law as part of President Biden's American Rescue Plan, this additional funding will enable Head Start programs' to redouble their efforts to deliver safe, high-quality services to children and families during the pandemic.

The funding recognizes Head Start's critical need for COVID-19 relief and will help address the increased expenses associated with providing safe and effective services to children and families. Head Start programs have incurred additional expenses including purchasing PPE, modifying facilities and HVAC systems to reduce transmission, acquiring sanitation supplies and increasing hours of janitorial staff, upgrading technology to facilitate virtual learning and home check-ins, and hiring new staff to offset volunteer restrictions. The funding that you championed for Head Start in this bill is critical to ensuring that Head Start both meets the needs of our children and families and continues to set a path forward, developing best practices for safe in-person care for our youngest learners. Head Start's role has been lauded as a pandemic success story, and this funding is a commitment to Head Start's proven programs, measurable results, and changed lives.

Head Start serves our nation's most vulnerable, all of whom now face even greater challenges amidst the pandemic. The Committee's support for Head Start sustains a lifeline for so many, as the program has been a stabilizing force for isolated children and families with multiple high-risk factors. Thanks to increased funding, steadfast leadership from you and others, and the heroic efforts of Head Start staff, the majority of the nation's Head Start programs are offering in-person services for at least some children, and all programs are dynamically providing services to all enrolled families. Head Start has stood by families, providing high-quality education and a trusted place to leave a child while a parent heads off to work, and we are so grateful that you have stood by Head Start.

Again, thank you and the House Committee on Education and Labor for making our nation's most vulnerable a priority in this critical moment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yasmina Vinci".

Yasmina Vinci
Executive Director