



WSA Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

*Serving ECEAP, Head Start, Migrant Head Start,
Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start
Programs and Families*



House Republicans in Congress Propose Cutting 200,000 At-Risk Children from Head Start Starting October 1st;

Will Vote This Week on 2011 Funding Bill; Head Start Association Gives Republican Leadership “F” on First Report Card

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This week the House of Representatives will vote on a plan to cut 200,000 of the most at-risk children from Head Start classrooms across the country. Under the proposal for the remaining 7 months of fiscal year 2011 put together by Rep. Hal Rodgers (R-KY), the new chair of the Appropriations Committee, 200,000 Head Start children will be kicked out of the program on October 1st. This equates to a nearly 25% cut to Head Start—long seen as America’s national commitment to helping at-risk children get ready for school and success in life. The text of the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2011 can be found below and the specific parts related to Head Start are on pages 293 and 294:

http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/legislativetext/2011crapprops/AppropCRFInal.xml.pdf

Impact in Washington State: 2,772 Children Dropped on October 1st; 908 Jobs Lost

According to the National Head Start Association (www.nhsa.org), Head Start programs in Washington State would be forced to cut 2,772 children from the program on October 1st and would need to immediately lay off 908 employees—mostly teachers and classroom staff. In our state more than 26,000 children are eligible for Head Start and ECEAP—our state’s pre-k program—but are unable to participate because of a lack of funding. Governor Gregoire has already proposed to cut ECEAP by 662 children in her two year budget.

Joel Ryan, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP Says House Republican Leadership Deserve an “F” On Budget Proposal

“Head Start has consistently received an “A” grade on just about every report card reviewing the program. Studies have found that children who have participated in Head Start are more likely to be ready for school, less likely to need costly special education services, less likely to

repeat a grade, less likely to commit a crime, and are more likely to graduate from high school.¹ Today, I have the unfortunate task of handing the House Republican Leadership a grade of “F” on their first report card. Their budget fails to protect the needs of America’s at-risk children. It fails to keep people employed. And it fails to provide opportunities for our littlest learners. It is my hope that with some additional tutoring, support, and education Congress can get back on track. Their next progress report is due out at the end of this week when a final vote on the legislation will take place. Let’s hope their grade improves.”

Public Is Being Asked To Help: www.supportheadstart.org

The National Head Start Association is seeking help from parents who have children enrolled in Head Start, staff that work at programs, former alumni, teachers, concerned citizens, and the public at large. They have set up a new web site www.supportheadstart.org which will allow the user to send an email to their member of congress asking them to oppose cuts to Head Start.

About WSA

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP (WSA) is a statewide organization composed of representatives from ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Native American Head Start. The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. The organization advocates for Head Start and for ECEAP in Olympia and in Washington DC. You can visit our web site at www.wsaheadstarteceap.com

¹ http://www.nhsa.org/research/research_bites