



WSA Mourns Loss of Head Start Champion Ted Kennedy

Kent, Washington//August 26, 2009/// The Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA) is mourning the loss of Senator Edward M. Kennedy from Massachusetts. Senator Kennedy was a champion for low income children and a strong advocate for the Head Start program. Through Kennedy's leadership in the Senate the Head Start program was expanded. Kennedy also helped to create Early Head Start, a program for low income pregnant moms, infants, and toddlers. In recent years Kennedy worked closely with providers and families to strengthen key components of the program.

Joel Ryan, Executive Director of WSA, said the following on the passing of Kennedy:

“Last night we lost a true champion for kids across our country and in the state of WA. Kennedy was a hero to us. He had the courage to stand up for those who often could not speak up for themselves—kids, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and minorities. Because of Kennedy thousands of low income children here in WA could access Head Start programs and thus had the chance to live up to their fullest potentials. We owe Kennedy our deepest gratitude. On behalf of WSA I also want to extend my condolences to the Kennedy family and to the dedicated staff that we have had the pleasure to work with during the years.”

ABOUT WSA

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP (WSA) is a statewide organization composed of representatives from Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant Head Start, Native American Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. WSA provides high quality training and advocates for the children, families, staff and friends of Head Start and ECEAP programs throughout the state of Washington.

To find out more information about WSA go to our web site at www.wsaheadstarteceap.com

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