



WSA Federal Advocacy Goals for 2014

Restore Head Start Funding

Head Start is one of the best investments of taxpayer money. Research shows that children that have been through Head Start are more likely to be ready for school, less likely to need remedial help, and are more likely to graduate from high school. Unfortunately, the across the board cuts known as sequester that took place March 1 resulted in almost 60,000 children across the country, and 750 just in Washington state, being dropped from Head Start programs this fall. We urge Congress to provide Head Start enough funding to reverse the damage done through sequestration. WSA believes that Head Start funding should be increased, not cut.

Expand Access to High Quality Pre-School

We support the bipartisan legislation recently introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) to expand access to high quality pre-school and look forward to working with Congress on funding and policy bills that will ensure that all children are ready for school—especially our most at risk three and four year olds. We believe that a high quality pre-school program should have well educated and paid teachers, small class sizes, use evidence based curriculums, and provide a full range of comprehensive services such as health, nutrition, family support, and parental engagement. We believe that the current mixed delivery system should be utilized with Head Start programs playing a leading role. Finally, we support the expansion of services for our most at risk pregnant moms, infants, and toddlers by increasing funding for Early Head Start through child care partnerships.

Modify the Designation Renewal System

Our association continues to support the Obama Administration's efforts to strengthen accountability within Head Start through the Designation Renewal System (DRS). The DRS requires programs deemed to be poorly performing to compete for their grant against outside challengers. We give the Obama Administration high marks for their work on this initiative so far. However, we also believe that based on the initial roll out, the DRS could be modified to better target poorly performing programs and to enhance meaningful competition.

For more information, please contact:

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