



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

July 20, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 225-3961

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20015

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 225-2595

The Honorable John Kline
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline:

The National Head Start Association (“NHSA”) is pleased to endorse the Early Learning Challenge Fund provisions in Title IV of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, that we understand you will be marking up this week in Committee. We applaud your efforts, along with President Obama’s, to recognize the fundamental importance of early childhood initiatives that improve quality and help to strengthen options available across our country for children and their families to ensure future success.

NHSA represents more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 2,600 Head Start programs in the United States who understand well the benefits of comprehensive, early childhood programs. We believe strongly in ensuring high quality in early childhood initiatives, as the Head Start program has done for so many years. Since 1965 for Head Start and 1994 for Early Head Start, these programs have served more than 25 million low-income and at-risk children and families by providing child care, education, health, nutrition, social, family support, and other services.

We applaud the goal of the legislation that would help to ensure that a full range of programs can meet and sustain high standards like ours over time and look forward to working with Congress and the Administration in ensuring that the Early Learning Challenge Fund is enacted. Thank you for all you have accomplished for the early childhood community so far, and we look forward to taking this next exciting step with you.

Sincerely,

Yasmina 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 Start programs nationwide.