



May 9, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, and Ranking Member Murray:

As Governors, we write to voice our strong support for the Head Start program and to urge you to reject proposals to eliminate or reduce its funding in the FY26 federal budget.

Since its creation in 1965, Head Start has helped millions of children reach their full potential by providing one of the highest standards of quality in early learning, health, and family support services across the nation. Today, the program serves more than 800,000 of the nation's most at-risk children, preparing them to succeed in school and giving their families the tools to pursue work, education, and economic stability.

Research consistently shows that access to quality early learning improves school readiness, health outcomes, and long-term success for children in low-income families. Head Start is more than preschool — it is a critical investment in America's future workforce and economy.

The downstream effects of any reduction or elimination of Head Start funding would be significant and damaging. States and territories simply cannot absorb the impact. Cuts to Head Start would strain child care, workforce, health, human services, and child safety systems, and force millions of parents to choose between staying employed or leaving the workforce to care for their children — at a time when maintaining a strong labor market is essential to our economic growth.

We urge you to fully fund Head Start in FY26 and take all necessary steps to eliminate any potential funding disruptions, ensuring continued access to these vital services for the children and families who rely on them.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,



Governor Katie Hobbs
The State of Arizona



Governor Jared Polis
The State of Colorado



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



Governor Matt Meyer
The State of Delaware



Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
The Territory of Guam



Governor JB Pritzker
The State of Illinois



Governor Andy Beshear
The Commonwealth of Kentucky



Governor Wes Moore
The State of Maryland



Governor Tim Walz
The State of Minnesota



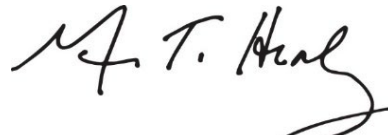
Governor Kathy Hochul
The State of New York



Governor Bob Ferguson
The State of Washington



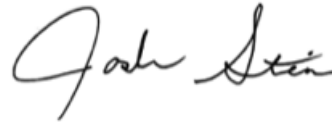
Governor Janet Mills
The State of Maine



Governor Maura Healey
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
The State of New Mexico



Governor Josh Stein
The State of North Carolina



Governor Tony Evers
The State of Wisconsin