



June 28, 2007

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We write to you in your capacity as a conferee on the Head Start reauthorization. Pre-K Now applauds the Congress for the steps already taken to strengthen this landmark early education program. We ask you to support in conference the stronger provisions approved by each chamber, as outlined below.

We recommend that the conference adopt Senate language to:

- Require each governor to create a State Advisory/Early Learning Council with a comprehensive membership;
- Apply the 50 percent BA requirement on a state-by-state basis; and
- Set training requirements for Head Start teaching assistants.

We recommend that the conference adopt House language to:

- *Require* rather than *establish a goal* that 50 percent of Head Start teachers hold a BA; and
- Require Early Head Start teachers to have a CDA or to have completed equivalent coursework by September 30, 2009.

In addition, we recommend a compromise between the House and Senate positions on funding for the State Advisory/Early Learning Councils to authorize \$50 million in FY08 and \$5 million a year in subsequent years.

Thank you for considering these recommendations to strengthen the Head Start program. Please contact us or federal policy fellow Matt Smith (msmith@preknow.org) if you have any questions about these recommendations, or if you want more information about the important work of providing high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Doggett".

Libby Doggett
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Patterson".

Kathy Patterson
Federal Policy Director