

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 238

Expressing support for the Head Start Program, which has had a positive impact on the lives of low income children and families since its inception and endorsing its administrative structure and program content.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2003

Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. HOLT) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the Head Start Program, which has had a positive impact on the lives of low income children and families since its inception and endorsing its administrative structure and program content.

Whereas in 1964 the Federal Government asked a panel of child development experts to draw up a program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children;

Whereas Project Head Start, launched as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965, was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs;

Whereas in 1969, Head Start was transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and for more than 20 years has been a part of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services, in recognition of the comprehensive service child and family development aspects of the program;

Whereas Head Start has served 21,214,295 children since it began in 1965;

Whereas more than 133,000 Head Start fathers participated in organized regularly scheduled activities designed to involve them in Head Start and Early Head Start programs;

Whereas Head Start programs by law must collaborate and coordinate with Title I schools;

Whereas Head Start programs collaborate with other agencies such as to provide a cohesive network of services in order to ensure responsiveness to the community which it serves;

Whereas 20 States have Head Start waiting lists, totaling a half a million children who are eligible for enrollment yet unable to enter Head Start programs;

Whereas a recent national study by the President's Management Council reported that Head Start received the highest customer satisfaction rating of any government agency or private business;

Whereas a recent study by the Family and Child Experiences Survey concluded Head Start children are "ready to learn" and in kindergarten, Head Start graduates made substantial gains in word knowledge, letter recognition,

math skills and writing skills relative to national norms;
and

Whereas parental involvement in Head Start is mandatory and key to the success of the program and half of the members of the Head Start Policy Council, which serves as a vital link between the community and public and private agencies, are made up of parents: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes the major contribution Head Start has made to
3 America's children and families and urges the program to
4 continue to improve the quality of their classrooms
5 through attention to the facilities, equipment and supplies,
6 educational activities, schedule, and interaction with chil-
7 dren.

8 SEC. 2. The House of Representatives recognizes
9 Head Start as an apolitical Federal-to-local partnership
10 based on community needs and supports maintaining the
11 current administrative responsibilities of the Department
12 of Health and Human Services over the program and con-
13 tinuing the Federal-to-local structure of the program.

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