



# **WSA** Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

*Serving ECEAP, Head Start, Migrant Head Start,  
Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start  
Programs and Families*



**Who will Dave stand with? The Thousands of At Risk Children and Families Back Home in His District, or Tea Party Extremists in Washington DC?**

**House to Vote Thursday on proposal to cut 200,000 Children from Head Start;  
Congressman Reichert's (D-Auburn) Vote Considered Critical**

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Tomorrow the House of Representatives will vote on a plan to cut 200,000 of the most at-risk children from Head Start classrooms across the country. Under the proposal being considered on the House floor Thursday night, over 200,000 Head Start children will be kicked out of the program on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This equates to more than a 20% cut to Head Start—long seen as America's national commitment to helping at-risk children get ready for school and success in life.

### **Impact in Washington State: 2,772 Children Dropped on October 1<sup>st</sup>; 908 Jobs Lost**

According to the National Head Start Association ([www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org)), Head Start programs in Washington State would be forced to cut 2,772 children from the program on October 1<sup>st</sup> and would need to immediately lay off 908 employees—mostly teachers and classroom staff.

### **Statement of Cheri Stefani, Head Start Director, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Renton, WA**

“These cuts would put the highly regarded Educare Center located in White Center in jeopardy. Eight out of ten Educare classrooms are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Educare represents years of work to develop a successful public-private partnership in our state which includes Thrive by Five Washington and the King County Housing Authority. A huge investment in time as well as the newly constructed facility would be in jeopardy. Approximately 30 staff would lose their jobs.

We would also need to end a newly started partnership with Easter Seals Angle Lake Child Care which has 19 children. This child care partner worked quickly and effectively to partner with Head Start through the ARRA funding; they have highly skilled staff funded with ARRA \$, they serve children who speak many languages and are very low income. We would also have to cut 8 more Early Head Start children from Clover Park Tech. This would cause them to stop serving infants and toddlers because without the HS funds, they can't afford to operate that classroom.

We would also have to decide where to cut non-ARRA funded slots. Nearly every one of our 30 subcontractors has waiting lists in both part day and full day. For some centers, Federal Way School

District as an example, the wait list is 50 children. Federal Way currently serves 152 Head Start children.”

### **Statement from Joel Ryan, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP**

“As the Sheriff of King County, Dave Reichert understood the benefits of crime prevention. Right now Head Start—a program that has been shown to dramatically reduce the incidence of crime is on the chopping block.<sup>1</sup> The House will vote tomorrow night on whether to cut children from Head Start or to maintain funding for the program. Congressman Reichert is seen as a critical vote on funding for Head Start. My hope is that he will do what is in the best interests of his constituents and the children and families he represents and reject the reckless budget proposal being pushed by Tea Party Extremists in Washington DC.”

### **About WSA**

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP (WSA) is a statewide organization composed of representatives from ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Native American Head Start. The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. The organization advocates for Head Start and for ECEAP in Olympia and in Washington DC. You can visit our web site at [www.wsaheadstarteceap.com](http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Garces, E., D. Thomas, and J. Currie. (2002, September). Longer-Term Effects of Head Start. The American Economic Review. 92, 4: 999-1012.