

# Legislative Update

Parent Leadership Institute  
March 2015



# President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

- ✓ **\$1.5 billion increase for Head Start. Early Start-Child Care Partnership, COLA for Staff, and Full Day/Full Year Programming**
- ✓ **\$500 million increase for preschool development grants**
- ✓ **Significant increases for child care development block grant (\$386 million) and tax credits up to \$3,000 per child**
- ✓ **\$15 billion over 10 years for evidence based home visiting programs**



# House Budget Resolution

- ✓ **\$759 billion worth of cuts over 10 year below sequestration levels**
- ✓ **\$125 to \$140 billion worth of cuts to SNAP (Food Stamps)**
- ✓ **Repeals expansion of Medicaid and block grants program**
- ✓ **\$1.5 trillion worth of tax breaks for the wealthiest**



# Senate Budget Resolution

- **2/3<sup>rd</sup> of \$4.5 trillion worth of cuts over 10 years would impact low income families**
- **Leaves sequestration in place for fiscal year 2016 and then cuts \$236 billion under sequestration until 2025**
- **Repeals health care subsidies and Medicaid expansion**
- **\$1 trillion in unspecified cuts**



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



# HS Regulations

- ✓ Revised version of Program Performance Standards now at OMB. Likely to see them in April.
- ✓ They will be slimmer and have more flexibility
- ✓ Beefed up education standards/less prescriptive with family support
- ✓ Expect movement toward full day full year, mixed income classrooms, and easier data sharing with state systems



# HS Reauthorization

- ✓ Not very likely to take place this year but...
- ✓ House Republicans interested in having some conversations
- ✓ Told us no block grant proposals this time around
- ✓ Focus on ensuring all programs are quality, supporting innovation, less compliance and more outcomes, closer ties to state systems, encouraging more competition and creating incentives for for-profit companies



# ESEA

- ✓ Congress focused on ESEA reauthorization
- ✓ Differing perspectives between Republicans and Democrats on the role of federal government
- ✓ Early learning advocates advocating for the inclusion of early education within ESEA
- ✓ NHSA has raised concerns about establishing a separate federal funding stream for pre-k along side Head Start



# Early Learning Investments

## Governor's Budget

- ✓ \$80 million to support 6300 more children to participate in ECEAP
- ✓ \$2 million increase for home visiting programs
- ✓ \$70 million to maintain the state's Early Achievers System

## Additional ELAA Priorities

- ✓ Additional investments include Read out and Read, Child Care Aware, and Dual Language programming





# Early Start Act

- ✓ House Bill 1491/Senate Bill 5452
- ✓ Creates Early Achievers in statute and accompanying supports for providers
- ✓ Scholarships and grants to support teachers in getting a degree
- ✓ Establishes tiered reimbursement system
- ✓ 12 month authorization for child care subsidies/Senate version 90 day job search



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# The Early Start Act Status

- ✓ Bills passed out of House and Senate
- ✓ Another round of hearings
- ✓ Budget components most important
- ✓ 12 month authorization in jeopardy because of costs/\$40 million



# Dual Language Bill

- ✓ **House Bill 1783 and Senate Bill 5675**
- ✓ **Will establish small grant program to ECEAP, child care, and family homes participating in Early Achievers that would like to expand their dual language programming**
- ✓ **Establishes two coaches—one at the Department of Early Learning and one at Child Care Aware to provide training and technical assistance**



# House and Senate Budgets

- ✓ WSA seeking \$87 million in new funding for ECEAP
- ✓ 50% part day spaces/25% extended day/25% full day (6 hours)
- ✓ House budget likely out the last week of March/Senate to follow
- ✓ Session could drag on into June because of debate about taxes

