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Support Head Start Funding for Growing States

**Nearly half of all states experienced growth
in Head Start-eligible population between 2000-2001.**

2 out of 5 children eligible for services cannot find a slot in a Head Start classroom.

Children who complete Head Start are more likely to graduate high school.

Dear Colleague:

Head Start programs across the country provide services and comprehensive education to more than 900,000 pre-kindergarten children and their families. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding for Head Start programs, forty percent of all eligible participants are not being served. In states with increased population growth and high poverty rates, the percentages of eligible children unable to take part in Head Start is even higher. Finally, Head Start programs in high growth states are further penalized because outdated census data fails to reflect current state population changes.

In an effort to remedy this problem, I am introducing the High Growth Head Start Assistance Act. The High Growth Head Start Assistance Act authorizes a total of \$50 million a year from FY 2004 to 2008 for a grant program targeting states with increased growth in children zero to five who live under the poverty level. Using the most recent statistics available, the High Growth Head Start Assistance Act will ensure that Head Start programs in high growth states are given additional resources to provide essential services to more children in need.

Please find the census data from 2000 and 2001 attached, showing states with growing numbers of children eligible for Head Start.

If you are interested in cosponsoring the High Growth Head Start Assistance Act or would like additional information, please contact Shannon von Felden of my staff at 5-5965.

Sincerely,



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress