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Charles E.M. Kolb  
President

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
United States House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hirono,

On behalf of the Committee for Economic Development (CED), I commend your leadership in introducing H.R. 3289, the Providing Resources for Kids (Pre-K) Act, which would extend access to high quality pre-kindergarten to many more children in our country. Research shows that investing in high quality early childhood education programs is effective public policy, which not only benefits our children and families but also our workforce and economy.

Forward-thinking business leaders appreciate that the foundation for the cognitive as well as non-cognitive skills needed by our 21<sup>st</sup> century American workforce is developed during the first five years of a child's life. They also recognize that in order for the United States to continue to lead in a knowledge-based global economy where we face strong competition with China, India, and other emerging markets with large populations – we must nurture the potential of all our citizens, especially our children.

CED is a non-partisan, non-profit public policy research organization led by 200 senior corporate executives and university presidents. Our Trustees have a long-held belief that the development and education of all children from the earliest stages of their lives must be a national priority. Key CED policy statements in this area include *The Economic Promise of Investing in High-Quality Preschool: Using Early Education to Improve Economic Growth and the Fiscal Sustainability of States and the Nation*, released in 2006, and *Preschool for All: Investing in a Productive and Just Society*, released in 2002. In both of these publications, CED Trustees stressed their belief that universal access to free, high quality pre-kindergarten classes should be offered by a variety of providers for all children whose parents want them to participate.

Once again, CED applauds your initiative on this important issue. We hope that this legislation will serve as a catalyst for additional measures at the federal and state levels to ensure that pre-kindergarten programs are available to all of America's three and four year olds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chas E.M. Kolb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E.M. Kolb