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February 19, 1997

Representative Ryan Deckert  
State Capitol 368  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Representative Deckert:

On behalf of the Head Start parents and staff who met with you on February 6, 1997, I would like to thank you for the time you spent listening and talking to us.

We hope you will support the proposed \$35,000,000 expansion of Oregon Head Start. These funds, in addition to the current \$10.3 million annually in Oregon Head Start funds, and \$28.4 million annually in Federal Head Start funds, will enable Oregon to serve 50% of eligible 3 and 4 year olds with comprehensive Head Start services by the end of the coming biennium. This will increase enrollment in Oregon's Head Start Program from 6,590 to 11,360 children. In Washington County this will increase Head Start enrollment from 350 to 765.

I've enclosed letters from two of our Head Start parents which indicate far better than I could ever express, the value and effectiveness of Oregon's Head Start program in making a difference in the lives of low income children and their families.


Please feel free to contact me at 693-3265, if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bolmeier  
Family Services Program Manager

LL:ns

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This Is My Story...

My daughter Anicia was diagnosed as having Autism over one year ago. At that time the doctors had told me that Anicia would not ever talk, be socially interactive and need to either live with me or in a group home for the rest of her life.

When she began Headstart I had little hope for her and her outlook developmentally as well as socially.

When she began to talk and use sign language I was astounded and beside myself with joy. She is now counting to twenty, knows over 20 signs and interacting socially with her classmates as though there is nothing wrong with her.

I cannot tell you how this makes me feel to know that there is a program out there that really works, not only for the children but also for the families.

She has really come out of her shell developmentally and is an active member of her class.

I have also gotten help with energy assistance, and goal setting from my family services worker Lu Lamping who has turned out to be more than just a family services worker, she is a mentor, surrogate mother and a terrific listener. She is always there when ever I need her for personal problems or those that pertain to Headstart.

Without this program I would be at a total loss as to what to do with my daughter and my other financial problems.

So let us remember just how integral a part of this program is in families lives before we consider cutting funds. I truly believe that it needs to be expanded so it can offer the same kinds of programs to other families. So please remember how it has affected one little girl and her family, and how it could affect others.

Thank you for your time and God bless you,

Sincerely,

Andrea and Anicia Carr

2.3.97

GOOD Day. Greetings  
to you. On behalf of  
Madelynn Rose McFaul, Jessica  
Tyler Garner, Keegan Patrick Garner  
I write to you.

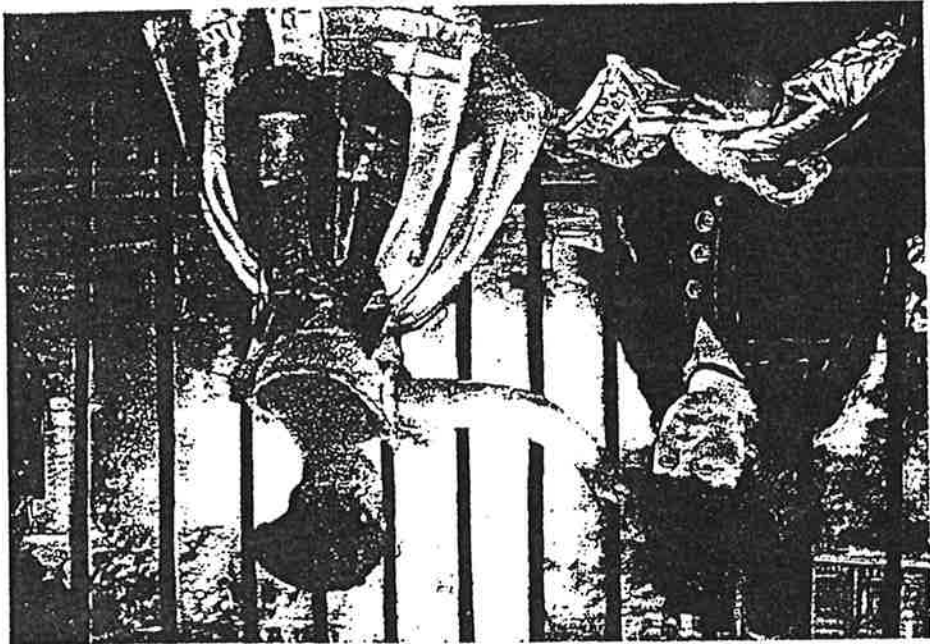
I am Patricia Garner.

Hello, these three people  
are my children. All three  
have "Head Start" in common.

Madelynn is 10 yrs old. At  
age 4 she was a student. She  
now is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade with 5 yrs of  
Academic Excellence. I'm thankful  
for the training & education she  
gained in this valuable teaching  
program. Jessica 5, Keegan 3 are  
both in Head Start now. Weekly  
I give 3 hrs to volunteer to my  
childrens class. I feel this program  
is not only healthy but profoundly  
lays the building blocks for social  
behavior, & academic Base. I wish  
to speak out for more support from  
you the voice in congress Head Start is

change the world.

I believe we can  
Gene Smith-Lucero  
Edward Howell



a great Program. Because I feel so strongly I invite you to our Gaston School. Please come witness these Dedicated Teachers inter connecting with High School Student to Pass on Teaching Skills to 3,4,5 yr olds. I'm proud of Karen Debbes. Marilyn Whitman, Elva Lamb for the life & love they give our kids. This healthy positive program is one way to invest in our kids. Help me make a positive choice for the thousands of Families who benefit & then give to their communities my Family DOES! Please join with me in Voting Yes for Head Start school  
Patricie Garner

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