

Durham County Board of Commissioners Urges Continued Support of Head Start and Early Head Start

Dear Members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, we write to express our unequivocal support for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and to urge you to reject any proposals that would weaken or eliminate these essential services.

Head Start and Early Head Start provide critical early learning opportunities and comprehensive health and family support services to children and families experiencing poverty, foster care, or housing instability. These programs not only prepare children for academic success — they also serve as a lifeline for working families in our community.

In Durham County, more than 490 children are currently enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start. These children benefit daily from high-quality early learning experiences, nutritious meals, and access to vital health, dental, and vision services. For many families, Head Start is their only access to affordable childcare and crucial health-related resources. Without it, parents and caregivers may be forced to choose between earning a living and caring for their children — an impossible choice.

Decades of research confirm the lasting benefits of Head Start, from enhanced school readiness and improved health outcomes to increased family stability and economic mobility. A reduction in federal support would not only jeopardize the futures of the children we serve — it would also create ripple effects across our workforce, economy, and social support systems.

As local elected leaders, we see the impact of these programs every day in the lives of our residents. We urge you to continue robust federal investment in Head Start and Early Head Start and to oppose any efforts to diminish their reach or effectiveness. Our families — and our future — depend on it.

Sincerely,

Durham County Board of Commissioners