

April 2010

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Head Start
Parents across
the states

www.NHSA.org

Becoming a member for just \$5 includes receiving discounts on NHSA training and conferences, access to all resources in the "Members Only" section of the Web site, one copy of *Children & Families*, join an national online forum on parenting and other important topics, and get important advocacy alerts, and updates.

MomsRising.org

Members are bringing important motherhood and family issues to the forefront of the country's awareness. Together, we are working to create both cultural and legislative change, on both the national and state levels.

Idea for parents

Invite the League of Women Voters to hold a voter registration drive at your local program or end of the year event. Contact Linnea Hurst at (206) 622-8961 or lwwva@lwwva.org



Just For Parents Newsletter By the WSA Parent Ambassadors

Washington State Bill and Budget Updates

Thanks to the diligence of Head Start, and ECEAP parents, staff, directors, and community friends several early Learning bills were signed by Governor Gregoire this 2010 legislative session. Included are

2731-ECEAP Entitlement

This bill protects ECEAP funding and slowly phases in funding to serve all eligible children by the 2018-2019 program year.

6759-Early Learning Planning

Beginning April 1, 2010 OSPI with assistance from DEL shall convene a work group to develop a com-

prehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning.

2867-Birth to 3 Planning

The bill requires DEL in collaboration with Thrive by Five and ELAC to put together a birth to 3 plan and make recommendations legislature and governor by December 1, 2010.

3141-Child Care Subsidy Reform

The bill changes the authorization period for families enrolled in ECEAP, Head Start, and Early Head Start programs and receiving working connections

child care to 12 months. Families would only have to go through a reauthorization if their circumstances change.

State Budget State lawmakers finalized their budget. While the budget contained some deep cuts to education, health care, and other social services, early learning went virtually untouched. Funding for child care subsidies was maintained and there was only a slight cut to the ECEAP program (29 children). This was a direct result of your incredible advocacy work! Pat yourself on the back!

Help Head Start: Speak out now!

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has invested heavily in education to create jobs, and lay the foundation for long term success for our children. President Obama supports Head Start, Early

Head Start, Early Learning programs and Childcare, but we must contact our federal Senators and representatives to ensure we keep our place in the Federal Budget.

Be sure to send support calls to Senators:

Maria Cantwell-(202) 224-3441

Patty Murray-(202) 224-2621

Special thank you to the Peppercorn Foundation for making WSA Parent Ambassadors possible.