

## **It is time to remind your U.S. Senators and Representative to protect Head Start!**

As I am sure you know, Head Start reauthorization is under way. The block grant that President Bush's Administration proposed in his budget proposal has been stopped for the time being, but it is crucial to make sure our leaders know that block grants to states are not acceptable and that funding should continue to go directly to the community. In the coming weeks Head Start reauthorization will be taken up on the House and Senate floors.

### **Here are some areas to pay close attention to that are at risk:**

- 1) The possibility of Head Start becoming a block grant or a possibility of a funding cap
- 2) Parental authority may be diminished
- 3) Higher standards are being asked of teachers with no salary increase
- 4) Advocates and the General Accountability Office (GAO) are taking a closer look at testing of Head Start children. The National Reporting System (NRS), an SAT- like test given to the children is thought to be unreliable and invalid, says the GAO. The National Head Start Association (NHSA) opposes the NRS testing because they feel it is unreasonable and illogical to test 3- and 4-year-olds and they feel it is unreasonable to tie the outcomes of such a test to the funding of Head Start Programs.

To find out more detail on Head Start you can go to:

<http://63.66.87.48/cweb4/index.cfm?orgcode=NHSA&hotissue=1>

[http://www.saveheadstart.org/bk\\_victory111303.html](http://www.saveheadstart.org/bk_victory111303.html)

[http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/monitoronline-issueHL.asp?ISSUEID=44#HL\\_33](http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/monitoronline-issueHL.asp?ISSUEID=44#HL_33)

### **Now is the time you should be writing your Senators and Representative with your views!**

To find your Representative's contact information you can go to

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/> and to find your Senator's contact information you can go to <http://www.senate.gov/>, or you can call the U.S. switchboard at 202-224-3121.

or

Call Senators Dodd and Lieberman:

Senator Christopher Dodd: 1-800-334-5341

Senator Joseph Lieberman: 1-800-225-5605

Call your Representative:

Rep. Jon Larson: 202-225-2265 or 860-278-8888

Rep. Rob Simmons: 202-225-2076 or 860-886-0139

Rep. Christopher Shays: 202-225-5541 or 203-579-5870

Rep. Nancy Johnson: 202-225-4476 or 860-223-8412

Rep. Rosa DeLauro: 202-225-3661 or 203-562-3718