

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION No. 77728 C.M.S.

J. Anderson
FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

03 MAR 13 PM 3:35

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM, AS IT IS PRESENTLY CONFIGURED, WITH INCREASED OR STABLE FUNDING AND OPPOSING PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE HEAD START FUNDS AS A BLOCK GRANT TO STATES AND TO MOVE THE PROGRAM FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, since 1965, the Head Start Program has provided a comprehensive early childhood education program for children living in poverty, which includes health and mental health services, family support, and activities to promote social, emotional, and cognitive development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has been a grantee for the Head Start Program since 1972 and in Program Year 2002-03 received nearly \$14 million to serve 1,608 children (birth to 5) and their families including pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program is currently administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and is funded directly from ten geographically placed regional offices and two regional offices that are housed in the Head Start Bureau in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start Program, *as it is presently configured*, has years of evaluation and research that proves its effectiveness in preparing the whole child for school and promoting the wellness of the family and this success has resulted in a long tradition of bipartisan support for the program; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed legislation that would move the Head Start program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the U.S. Department of Education changing its comprehensive, whole family focus to one narrowly focused on literacy and thereby failing to recognize the critical value family support and other support services play in the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, the President has also proposed legislation to allow states to seek Head Start funds as a block grant effectively allowing states to set their own program standards thereby bypassing the proven national performance standards; and

WHEREAS, providing Head Start funds as a block grant to states could result in higher administrative costs, increased regulations, reduced accountability for federal funds as states are allowed to set their own standards, less parent involvement, less focus on the neediest children as state poverty standards tend to be less stringent, and a less varied array of Head Start grantees as states could restrict grantee eligibility; and,

WHEREAS, under a state block grant system the City of Oakland and other non-school entities might be excluded from being Head Start grantees thereby reducing the options for providing a rich, well managed program by the local entity that best fits the particular needs of that community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland fully supports efforts to better coordinate the Head Start Program with other state early childhood programs and to increase continuity between preschool and kindergarten curriculum but do not believe the proposed changes to the Head Start Program address these issues; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council opposes the President's proposed legislation to provide Head Start funds as a block grant to states and to move the Head Start Program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the U.S. Department of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Head Start Program should be reauthorized with the maximum amount of funding possible so that the goal to serve all eligible children will some day be met; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Head Start Program be reauthorized as it is presently configured retaining its focus as a comprehensive early childhood education program with intensive family support and involvement and under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forward copies of this resolution to the President, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education and to each member of the California Congressional delegation.

APR 08 2003

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2003

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, REID, QUAN, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE — 8

NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

ATTEST



CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California