



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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October 6, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I urge you to reconsider proposed changes to the Head Start program that would cut funding, increase class sizes, weaken curriculum standards, and make our kids less safe.

Head Start serves 750,000 children across the United States, and over 15,000 kids in Kentucky. Since it was founded in 1965, Head Start has provided early education, meals, and vital health screenings to millions of America's kids. It has also helped many adults return to the workforce – setting millions of families and children on a sustainable path toward success.

The data shows Head Start has been effective. Children who participate in the program are more likely to finish high school, enroll in college, and earn their degree. Family caretakers tend to benefit, too. Last year in Kentucky, nearly 10,000 caretakers were able to participate in our workforce thanks to Head Start. Results like that deserve our support.

Basic educator qualifications, appropriate staffing ratios, and health and safety standards help keep our kids safe and perform better in school. Weakening those standards could have long-term negative impacts on the health, safety, and wellbeing of America's future generations.

October is Head Start Awareness Month. This October, I urge you to strengthen, not weaken, a proven program that has set millions of American families on a path toward success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Beshear".

Andy Beshear
Governor