



June 23, 2008

The Hon. George Miller, Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Thank you very much for your leadership in co-sponsoring H.R. 3289, the Providing Resources Early for Kids (PRE-K) Act, and bringing it forward for a Committee vote this week. We look forward to a strong committee vote for H.R. 3289, and a similar endorsement as the issue moves to a vote by the House of Representatives.

We are also pleased to share with you the results of a national survey of American voters by Peter D. Hart Research Associates and American Viewpoint, nearly 7 in 10 of whom favor a new federal grant to support high-quality state pre-kindergarten programs. We believe this proven voter support for federal investments in children is due in no small part to your own leadership on early education issues in the U.S. Congress.

Very few government investments have the proven record of return on investment demonstrated by high-quality voluntary pre-kindergarten, with returns ranging from \$3.15 to as high as \$16 for each \$1 invested in pre-k. The benefits for taxpayers, communities, and the nation as a whole are in addition to the value pre-k has been shown to have for children: success in elementary school, a better rate of high school graduation, and higher lifetime earnings. In our recent national survey, a majority of voters – and a majority of swing voters -- shared the view that the federal government is not doing enough to invest in early education. When told the per-taxpayer cost of a new federal pre-k grant, 62% of voters continued to voice their support for the legislative proposal.

States continue to invest in pre-k – with another 5.5% increase in state investments proposed this year in spite of difficult financial times. With the new federal incentives to improve programs proposed in H.R. 3289, states could improve teacher quality, reduce class sizes, and make other improvements that will benefit children and taxpayers alike. We are grateful for your leadership on H.R. 3289, and for your service to our nation and its youngest learners.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Doggett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" and "D".

Libby Doggett, Ph.D.
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "P".

Kathy Patterson
Federal Policy Director

cc: Members, Committee on Education and Labor