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February 19, 1997

Senator Jeannette Hamby, *Rep. Chuck Carpenter, Jim Hibel, Charles Starn, Tom Brian, Ron Adams*
State Capitol S312
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Senator Hamby:

On behalf of the Head Start parents and staff who met with you on February 6, 1997, I would like to thank you for the time you spent listening and talking to us.

We hope you will support the proposed \$35,000,000 expansion of Oregon Head Start. These funds, in addition to the current \$10.3 million annually in Oregon Head Start funds, and \$28.4 million annually in Federal Head Start funds, will enable Oregon to serve 50% of eligible 3 and 4 year olds with comprehensive Head Start services by the end of the coming biennium. This will increase enrollment in Oregon's Head Start Program from 6,590 to 11,360 children. In Washington County this will increase Head Start enrollment from 350 to 765.

I've enclosed letters from two of our Head Start parents which indicate far better than I could ever express, the value and effectiveness of Oregon's Head Start program in making a difference in the lives of low income children and their families.

Please feel free to contact me at 693-3256, if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Leon Laptook
Deputy Director

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