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February 5, 1997

Senator Jeannette Hamby  
P. O. Box 519  
Hillsboro, OR 97123-0519

Dear Senator Hamby:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us. Community Action Organization's Head Start/Oregon PreKindergarten program (OPP) currently serves 346 low-income three and four year olds in Washington County. Our program provides comprehensive early childhood development services to those children and their families. Under current funding we are able to serve 25% of those children and families in Washington County eligible for our program.

Head Start/OPP provides quality preschool individualized education plans, health and dental screening and follow-up, home visits to support parents as the principal educator of their children, transportation, meals, social services for families, and varied options for parents to be involved in the program. We believe, and numerous studies have demonstrated, that Head Start/OPP is an outstanding and effective approach to assisting low-income families and preparing their young children to be successful in the school system.

We hope you will support the current efforts to increase state funding for the OPP program in order that many more Washington County families and children can benefit from the program.

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We have included a series of short articles on Head Start/OPP and several statements by Head Start parents relating their experiences. Please feel free to contact us at 693-3256 if you have any questions, would like further information, or would like to schedule a visit to the Head Start/OPP classrooms in your district.

Once again, thank you for your time. We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Leon Laptook  
Deputy Director/Head Start Director

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