

Chantelle Bellock

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Good afternoon Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Hack, Vice-Chair Piluso, and members of the committee. My name is Chantelle Bellock I am a mother of two and my youngest child is fortunate enough to participate in the Preschool Promise program, which is why I am writing to you today. I volunteered two express my thanks and gratitude to those involved and making this program possible and it's my understanding that petitions like mine help in determining a programs progress and future viability.

I think the Preschool Promise program can and will make a huge impact on many lives given the chance. It is no secret that children soak up information like sponges between especially between the ages of one through five and accessibility to these programs is vital.

There are staggering statistic study's showing how influential preschool programs are for children. The beautiful thing that I appreciate is that Preschool Promise makes it possible, many more children can take advantage of the learning opportunities, it not just for low income families. Thanks to Preschool Promise more children are able to grow both intellectually and socially in ways they couldn't from home. No matter how hard a parent tries to set the foundation for their children's learning there are just some things that children need to learn outside of the home with other children. So thank you for expanding the opportunity two more families I hope you continue this Mission in educating the children of our future.

My son Matthew has really blossomed from his exposure through the Preschool Promise program at faces of America. We were thankful to secure a scholarship this year because without it we wouldn't have been able to send our son to such a wonderful and nurturing establishment. I was surprised and appreciative to see how generous the income qualifications ranged. I definitely would have appreciated that a few years ago when our oldest attended preschool. We made to much money to qualify for any Preschool Promise and it was hard and frustrating to figure out where we were going to come up with the money to pay for schooling. Matthew has really grown as a person and we've been truly supersized and excited to witness his progress, he now has better hand writing than our 8 year old. He is 4 years old, that's amazing and he's picking up Spanish so well. He traces every letter he sees on book and magazine which we did not teach him. So thank you for giving my son this great opportunity to attend such a great school.

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