

Submitter: Cassandra Grimes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

I am asking to stabilize funding for local head start programs. We are asking for \$387.843 million funding from the existing funding sources that support our programs, the General Fund and funding from the Student Success Act. This funding level would allow us to maintain existing services, and operate without significant budget cuts. Head Start puts children on the pathway to success.

These are the benefits I have witnessed first hand of the Head Start program:

- o Children are more likely to read by the 3rd grade, graduate from high school and receive a post-secondary degree. Head Start programs prioritize children's health.
- o Programs promote physical, dental, and mental health. They provide free daily meals and snacks to promote good nutrition and ensure children are healthy and ready to learn.
- o A key to Head Start programs success is that Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Parents learn how best to support their child's educational development and are given opportunities to advance their own education and gain job training.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.