

9/25/11

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

OCT 23 A 11:59
Dear County Commissioners,

LANGE, JIM, WASTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

Thank you for your concern and attention to the desperate needs for families (children, parents + single adults) to have a safety net of social services available when they need help.

In the face of the cuts at the state level taking effect within days, please do all you can to make help available to poor people.

Those who have said that the true measure of a people is how the poorest, most vulnerable among them are treated.

So true.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Ruth Carey

424 Little Lake #14

Ann Arbor, MI

48103

September 25, 2011
2810 Verle
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48108

Dear Washtenaw

County Commissioners,

During Budget deliberations, as a member of a faith community, I want to thank you for your continued support in funding human services in Washtenaw County.

Our community is in dire need, as you know the Michigan Budget in this regard is being slashed.

We support a call to care for the poor and vulnerable, which as you know is also very good fiscal policy.

Very truly yours,
Kathleen Peabody
Member, Ann Arbor
Friends Meeting

Dear Washtenaw County:

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:28

LAWRENCE B. ...
COUNTY CLERK / REGISTER

I am a parent of a student attending the county's Head Start program. I write to you to ask that you not release the grantee ship of the Head Start program.

The County sets high standards for the program, which leads to good results when coupled with adequate funding. Well-taught ~~Head~~ Head Start students end up becoming excellent high school students. This happens because of the adequate funding from the grantee ship. Please keep this program funded. It makes Washtenaw County a better community

Shumoon Khan
Shumoon Khan

9/13/11

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 AM 11:28

LAWRENCE TESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK REGISTER

The preschool program needs to continue for toddler to advancement towards Elementary Surroundings. This is my child's second year and she has advanced in many ways towards early education learning abilities. This is something that shouldn't be discontinued but ~~not~~ to go on to help early education

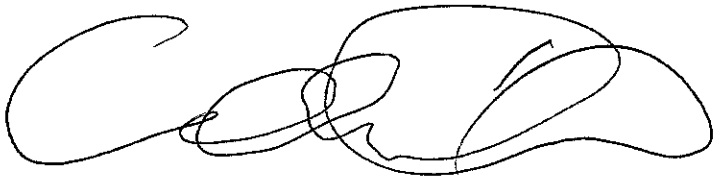
Sincerely
Veronica Hall

To whom it may concern

FILED
2011 SEP 29 A 11:29
LAWRENCE H. WESTERBANK
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

I am a parent at the Washtenaw
County head start program. I'm writing
to ask you not to release the grantee ship
of our program

Sincerely,



09/13/11

To,

Washtenaw County,

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:29

I request that you do not take

Headstart off the grantee ship.

We consider this to be a precious
and very constructive platform.

Nadia.

FILED
September 15, 2011
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:29

LAWRENCE YESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK (REGISTER)

To Whom It May Concern:

Head Start empowers Washtenaw County families! There are many services offered that help local families operate better. We hope that the county will make the right funding decision this November - to continue its "grantee" financial support of Washtenaw County Head Start, and here's why:

- **Head Start is a \$4.85 million Federal Grant** program that serves over 500 pre-school families in Washtenaw County (servicing Ann Arbor, Whitmore Lake, Willow Run and Ypsilanti).
- **Head Start promotes productive family life by supporting school readiness with an educational, nutritional, health and social mission for children ages, 3 to 5.**
- Head Start is a 46-year old program "praised" for its consistent reputation of excellence and in being nationally awarded for its performance.
- **Head Start employs 100 county-wide workers**, full and part-time.
- **With any funding changes, those 100 workers from 4 local cities would have to re-apply for their current positions**, 34.8 are full-time employees (FTE – 25.5 Teachers, + 6 Administrative).
- **Washtenaw County has currently committed to fund Head Start 18.75% or \$918,000 each year** (with a maximum commitment of up to 20%).
- **Of the \$918,000 committed annual budget amount, in 2010-11 Washtenaw County has subsidized its payment commitment to \$435,000**; an unexpected savings of \$483,000 each year.
- **Instead of a \$435,000 expected payment, Washtenaw County was only charged \$167,974 by Head Start last year**; only 5% of the 46-year-old commitment to pay 20% of the total \$4.85 million expense; an additional savings of \$267,026.
- **Washtenaw is not expected to pay more than an average of \$209,887 each year on the Head Start program from 2010 until 2022** – a 13-year approximate total of \$2,728,539 (million) instead of a promised \$11,934,000 (billion); this expected bond payment savings of \$9,205,461 (billion) should be an incentive of continued commitment from county government, promise and support.
- **Washtenaw funds other non-mandated programs that are less priority than the Head Start program.**
- **Animals are important too, but \$500,000 has been paid each year by Washtenaw County to the Humane Society**, another non-mandated, lesser priority program than Head Start that provides animal shelter.
- **Police Services, Sheriff's Road Patrols, the energy department, are other major non-mandated services that the county provides.**
- **Washtenaw County spends 2 to 3 times as much on vehicles in one year than it does on Head Start.**

- **The Head Start Program has agreed to make payments to Washtenaw County from now until 2052-2053 to repay the county for full expenses.**

Despite currently deficient economic conditions nationally and especially in Michigan - Education should always be a critical part of local government's function, support and concern. Even with rising personnel costs, the state should mandate this service *and* Washtenaw County's core mission should passionately support federally funded programs like Head Start. Washtenaw County should consider it's other options, but even if there is other grantee interest, county funding should assist with transition and not project an end support date until a new grantee partnership is secured (like WISD, U-M, EMU, municipality or other consortium is secured or lastly, CDI is secured).

Things are very tough today. Many homes increasingly have only one parent and it's important to understand the impact of not securing a healthy future for our children. The board needs to form a comprehensive budget committee to realistically look at expenditures, prioritizing programs based on return on investment, other possible consolidations and reorganization planning. Likewise, other non-mandated programs should be added to the county's budget discussion. If another "grantee" is found, Washtenaw County would currently have to repay more than \$748,000 already paid for building "rent" by the federal grant.

Committing to this long-term initiative and then "pulling out" is the equivalent of a senior parent "terminating" or walking away from a 46-year old relationship with their successful adult child, and thus saying, I cashed in the grandkids college fund because I overspent in other, less important areas over the years - Sorry, but maybe you can find a surrogate! Just because grandma and grandpa didn't balance their budget; dementia. Washtenaw County needs to improve its reputation of maintaining financial commitments, especially those that matter - like investing in our children. Head Start is a service that county government should be providing. We have to figure out how to educate all of our children while balancing the rest of work and life as well. Parents expect purposeful education, peaceful government and powerful support of its families and local economy.

Signed,



A Michigianian, U-M Alumnae, former teacher, unemployed, active Head Start parent with a Master's Degree

9/12/11

To whom It May Concern,

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

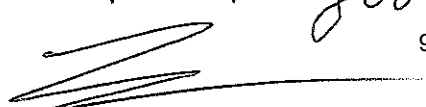
2011 SEP 29 A 11:30

I am a concerned parent whose child attends Ann Arbor Head Start. It is critical that Washtenaw County keeps the grantee ship of the program.

We remain the top head start program in the country because of the grantee ship of ~~the~~ Washtenaw County and the high standards that you keep. Having Bachelor certified teachers is very important to me as a parent.

Private businesses are going to look just at the money aspect of it. Keeping Washtenaw County involved keeps us strong and helps ensure a bright future for our children.

Please don't let our standards drop. Please keep up the good work of your grantee ship.

Thank you -
 Anna Black

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:30

LAWRENCE NESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

To Whom it may concern

My son Robert Connors is starting school in Washtenaw head
strated. I feel that you should keep the grant for Washten
So. It will help the ~~so~~ student and the teacher.

Schanna

To whom it may concern,

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

I am a parent at Washtenaw County Head Start program and I'm writing you to not release the grantship of our program. By letting this program go that means to me that our children will be shorted their chance at a great education.

SEP 29 11:30
LAWRENCE R. GOSTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR

To whom it may concern,

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:31

Hello my name is Cherie Belezi I wanted to say thank you so much for setting the bar high in education. The teacher's helped me a lot by teaching me my abc's,color's and respecting my classmates. This came in handy when I went to kidgarden. I could not wait to sit at my desk and learn. It was not hard for me to follow the rules because I learn patients and to raise my hand when I needed help. I got grate advise in my writing and spelling that is why I do well in my class right now. I can not say thank you enough, my mom can tell you that too.

I hope you pass what you taught me to other children because they need it . I hope you get more children in head start because they need all the education help they can get. That's why kids love going to school because you encourage them and push them a little so they do better. I mention your program to other people and tell them how great it is so they can pass it on to others. Please stay in washtenaw county you made a different in my life.

sincerely,

Cherie Belezi

(future singer/actor)

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:31

September 16, 2011

LAVINIA R. WESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK / REGISTER

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the Head Start Program in Washtenaw County. The Head Start Program is a very comprehensive program that allows Preschool age children the opportunity to be in school with other children their age and to interact with them as they begin to grow.

It also helps to nurture the growth of the whole child as an individual person; it is designed to uniquely teach children how to begin to learn about their emotional, social, health, as well as their educational needs. It is a program that if it is not in place to help our children with things that they need to start out their lives with, I feel that we as adults we will be remiss in helping them to become productive citizens one day.

As a Parent and a Grandparent I have seen the benefits of how well The Head Start program has helped so many of our youth in the past, and it can help them in the future.

With the Head Start program we have Potential Scholars, Presidents, Noble Peace Prizewinner, Teachers, Scientist and Doctors, the possibilities are endless as to what each child can achieve in his or her, life time there is greatness in each child that is a part of this program.

I know that it will continue to help each young child that is a part of the Head Start Program benefits from it, I sincerely hope that this program will continue to be in place for our young people of the future. A program like Head Start will always be needed to help our young children to grow in to productive citizens in our world.

I am looking forward to seeing that this program will continue to be in place in the future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Albertine McCullum
Mrs. Albertine McCullum

To whom it may concern.

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11: 31

My name is Dominique Belezzi. I am 13 years old and I go to Clague Middle school. I use to go to head start when I was three and four years old. That was a great experience for me when I went to head start. In Head start I got to learn a lot about counting and my ABC's and much more. The teachers at Head start were very nice and helpful with me and my family plus anything that a child need to get ahead in life.

Head start is a very important to children at the age that is pre kidgarden age making it less scary. My baby sister is in Head start and each day she learns more and it hard to keep up with her learning. She had learned how to count up to twenty , know her colors and how to spell her first name. She even knows her birth date I could not believe it myself. The reason why she knows all of this is because of Head start.

The reason why children need head start is that they can get a grate education and have a good experience of school. Taking away Head start is taking away extra learning from four and three year old kids. So I hope that they don't take away Head start out of wastenaw.

Thank you,

Dominique Belezzi

(future science major /WNBA star)

9-12-2011

To whom it may concern,

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:32

LAWRENCE J. STENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

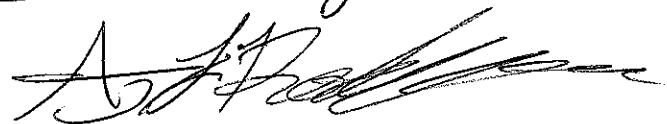
I am a parent at the Washtenaw County Head Start Program and I am writing this letter to implore you not to release the Grantship of our program.

What makes the Washtenaw County Head Start Program one of the top Head Start programs in the country is the fact that we are under the grantship of Washtenaw County, which sets such high standard for their teachers. Currently all of our Head Teachers possess bachelor degrees and all teacher aides - an Associates. This is not true of all Head Start Programs.

Private businesses tend to look at the monetary bottom line, not the community bottom line. The truth is having Head Start under the umbrella of Washtenaw County makes our community strong as a whole. It is our Washtenaw Community that is benefitting and becoming strong due to this program. We are building strong families which make strong citizens adding to our Community, making us a richer Community.

By releasing your Grantship of Head Start, you are risking us becoming a second-rate learning center, in the hands of greedy businessmen, instead of a strong foundation for budding leaders who will someday lead us to a better world.

Sincerely



Amanda J.L. Rodeffer
2389 Parkwood Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

MIESTHER L RODRIGUES
1215 MCINTYRE ST
ANN ARBOR, MI 48105

9/12/2011

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

2011 SEP 29 A 11:32

LAWRENCE NESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER

To whom it might concern,

I am a parent at the Washtenaw ~~college~~ County Head Start Program and I am writing this letter to implore you not to release the grantee ship of our program.

What makes the Washtenaw County Program one of the top Head Start programs in the county is the fact that we are under the grantee ship of Washtenaw County, which sets such high standard for their teachers. Currently all of our Head Teachers possess bachelor degrees and all teacher aide are Associates. This is not true of all Head Start Programs.

Private businesses tend to look at the monetary bottom line, not the community bottom line. The

9-12-11

To whom it may concern

FILED
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI

I am a mother at the 11:30am Arbor head start

2011 SEP 29 11:32 AM
LAWRENCE WESTENBAUM
COUNTY CLERK / REGISTERED

program. I am very much concerned about our school staying under washtenaw county. If we are not under washtenaw our kids education will be at risk. If we did not have our teachers meeting all the qualifications they need to anyone could be teaching or not teaching our kids. I think it is best for our kids to get the best leaders out there at the youngest age possible. Please don't drop us we need your help.

Thanks L. Albert