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Rep. George Miller (CA), Senior Democratic Member

### **What is *NOT* Changed in the New GOP Head Start Bill**

- No Head Start performance standards are required for block grant states
- States can weaken educational standards, such as – increasing class size, increasing child-teacher ratio, shortening program duration, cutting off 3 year olds, using unproven curricula
- States can gut comprehensive services, such as – eliminating parent classroom involvement, eliminating health and mental health screenings and services, eliminating adult literacy services, eliminating vision and dental services, eliminating health and nutrition education.
- States can still use block grant money to supplant other federal funds.
- Weakens accountability in block grant states
- Allows states to immediately de-fund current centers
- Long-standing civil rights protections regarding employment discrimination are repealed.
- Decreases money for quality improvements
- Increases teacher requirements but only provides \$ for an \$8.49 raise.

### **What *IS* Changed In the Republican Head Start Bill**

- Authorization figures in the out years replaces “such sums.” New numbers do not cover inflation after the first year.
- Change one of the block grant eligibility requirements so that states must have school readiness standards in FY03 (as opposed to simply having them at the time they apply), but regulations could render this moot.
- Holds current centers in block grant states harmless for 5 years instead of three – but large loophole remains.
- Provides 17 million for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, but leave behind 80% of eligible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
- Slightly increases the set-aside for training and technical assistance – but it is still 33% lower than current levels.