

Republican Credibility Gap on Head Start

- ❖ There is a major gap between what they say about this bill and what it actually does.
- ❖ They say they want to strengthen Head Start but this bill dismantles it.
- ❖ They say the block grant is good for kids – but they’ve tried to buy votes by promising Members their States would be excluded and their authorization figures do not cover inflation.
- ❖ They say they want to improve quality – but they cut the money for program improvements by one-third.
- ❖ They say they want to improve teacher quality – but they provide an annual raise of \$8.49 to teachers who make half of what kindergarten teachers make.
- ❖ They say they want to close the achievement gap further – but they turn this program over to states when there is no evidence states do as good a job as Head Start.
- ❖ They say they increase educational standards – but they allow increases in class size, unproven curricula, and shorter programs.
- ❖ They say comprehensive services are retained – but they replace required high quality services with vague requests and volumes of wiggle room.
- ❖ They say states would have to increase their spending – but CRS concluded that states could supplant existing funds and still meet the bill requirements.
- ❖ They say there’s room for everyone under the tent – but they allow teachers and parent volunteers to be excluded based on religion.