



July 24, 2003

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 18,000 cities that have a long and rich history of working with Head Start providers (both secular and faith-based), **the National League of Cities (NLC)** is urging you to:

1) Vote “YES” - for Rep. George Miller (D-CA) Substitute Amendment to H.R. 2210 – The Head Start Authorization Act

- Preserves accountability and local control over Head Start programs by removing the demonstrative block grants contained in H.R. 2210.
- Preserves long standing civil rights protections for all Head Start providers.
- Increases the academic standards and guarantees the continued delivery of comprehensive services for Head Start students.

2) Vote “YES” – for the Woolsey/Edwards/Frank/Scott (VA)/Van Hollen – Amendment.

- The Woolsey Amendment would preserve current law by prohibiting employment discrimination by faith-based organizations that teach Head Start students.
- The Woolsey Amendment would preserve current law by directing faith-based organizations, like their secular counterparts that receive federal funds, to uphold all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- The Woolsey Amendment would strike lines 6 through 14 on Page 57 – language that undermines the spirit and letter of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and unnecessarily encourages litigation and preempts local laws prohibiting employment discrimination.
- The Woolsey Amendment would treat all groups in receipt of federal Head Start funds equally under federal, state, and local law.

3) Vote “NO” – on H.R. 2210

Please call Jennifer McGee at (202) 626-3173 or Véronique Pluviose-Fenton at (202) 626-3029 if you have any additional questions.