

Agenda Report

TO: City Council June 2, 2003

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT 2003 REAUTHORIZATION OF HEAD START

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council support the 2003 Reauthorization of Head Start, including the continuation of national standards and a comprehensive, family-centered approach as delivered and currently administered by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

BACKGROUND

Head Start is a federal program with a 38-year record of success in providing comprehensive early education, health care, nutrition and social services nationwide to children and families of limited income. Head Start is a proven program that operates in local communities, effectively working with children and families to develop essential skills so that children start school ready to learn.

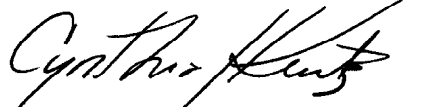
The Head Start Act is up for reauthorization as of September 30, 2003. As discussed in the Legislative Committee meeting of March 11, 2003 addressing a Resolution proposed by the Center for Community and Family Services, Inc., there are currently several proposals under consideration for reauthorization of Head Start. Some of these proposals, if adopted, would dramatically alter and place at risk the core funding, program, administration and service delivery elements of this successful program.

It is recommended that the City strongly support the 2003 Reauthorization of the Head Start program, with the continuation of national standards and a comprehensive, family-centered approach as delivered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Further, it is recommended that the City oppose any efforts to eliminate the comprehensive, family-focused nature of Head Start, and oppose any shift in funding guidelines that place the program vulnerable to state reallocation or reappropriation of Head Start funding.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Pasadena.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:



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