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October 22, 2009

Carole Zavala
Interim Executive Director
Orange County Head Start (OCHS)
Administrative Office
2501 S. Pullman St., Ste 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Dear Ms. Zavala:

The Head Start program has helped generations of deserving children get ready for a lifetime of learning, and I thank you for your commitment and leadership to make Head Start work well day-in and day-out for the children and families of our region. My family has seen first-hand how Head Start can level the playing field for working class children. As a member of the U.S. Congress, I'm proud to have been one of the strongest voices working to protect Head Start from being cut over the last few years.

Quality early education starts with the teachers and other frontline staff delivering programs and services to children and their families. As a co-founder of the Labor and Working Families Caucus, I am committed to ensuring that workers' voices are heard and respected. I am aware that OCHS employees will be conducting an election for union representation in the coming weeks. I hope that OCHS management will remain neutral in this democratic process and let OCHS employees choose who represents them.

I trust that OCHS management will do everything in its power to guarantee that the election is conducted fairly and free of intervention.

Sincerely,



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress