View Related Topics

October 27, **1998** 12:50 Eastern Time

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 668 words

HEADLINE: White House Fact Sheet on **Head Start**

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Oct. 27

BODY:
The following was released today by the White House:

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LEGISLATION THAT STRENGTHENS **HEAD START** AND PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

October 27, **1998**

Today, President Clinton signed into law bipartisan legislation that strengthens and expands **Head Start** services for America's families, promotes promising Individual Development Accounts to help more low-income families achieve self-sufficiency, and renews the Low- Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Passed by Congress at the President's urging, the Human Services **Reauthorization** Act of **1998** provides critical support for America's families.

Strengthens **Head Start.** This legislation builds on the President's commitment to improve and expand **Head Start.** Under the President's leadership, **Head Start** has become America's premier early childhood development program, ensuring that low-income children start school ready to learn.

Increases Investments in **Head Start.** The new legislation builds on the President's commitment to getting **Head Start** services to more children while also improving quality. Under the Clinton Administration, funding for **Head Start** increased by 68 percent, and enrollment has increased by over 200,000 children, reaching 830,000 children this past fiscal year. Because the President fought for and won a funding increase of $313 million for FY 1999, **Head Start** will continue to expand, moving toward the goal of serving one million children.

Doubles the Early **Head Start** Program. This legislation adopts the President's proposal to double the percentage of **Head Start** funds directed to Early **Head Start** by 2002. In 1994, President Clinton created Early **Head Start,** expanding the program to reach low-income families with children aged three and under and to pregnant women. In FY 1999, funding for Early **Head Start** will total nearly $340 million.

Ensures Quality in **Head Start.** The new legislation builds on the President's commitment to enhance the quality of **Head Start;** it promotes school readiness and family literacy, improves staff training and credentialing, and increases the funds set aside for quality improvements. The Clinton Administration has invested in improving **Head Start** services, attracting and retaining high quality teachers, and ensuring the safety of **Head Start** centers. In 1996, the Department of Health and Human Services set new **Head Start** performance standards, and has since monitored **Head Start** programs against these standards, provided staff training and technical assistance, and closed 100 programs unable to meet them.

Establishes Individual Development Accounts to Promote Self-Sufficiency. Since 1992, President Clinton has supported the creation of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to empower individuals to save for a first home, post-secondary education, or to start a new business. The passage of this legislation effectively completes the President's 1992 community empowerment agenda. The legislation creates a five-year, $125 million demonstration program to establish IDAs for more than 50,000 people.

Each dollar saved by a low-income family in an IDA would be matched, providing an incentive to build assets. The final budget agreement included $10 million to get this program off the ground.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Keeps the Heat On and Continued Support for Communities. After threats from some in Congress to eliminate this critical support for the elderly and low-income families, President Clinton successfully fought to fund the program that provides heating and cooling assistance to over five million households across the nation. The bill signed today also extends the Community Service Block Grant programs, providing states and organizations support on economic development, social services and other needs for low-income communities.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 27, **1998**

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

September 18, **1998** Friday, Final Chaser

SECTION: OPINIONS; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 551 words

HEADLINE: CONGRESS FOCUSES ON ITS REAL JOB;
HEAD START A WORTHY PROGRAM THAT WORKS, DESERVES **REAUTHORIZATION** OF FUNDS

BODY:
Believe it or not, there were signs this week that our nation's leaders busied themselves with the normal, mundane business of the nation. Yes, matters of great issue are unfolding in Washington, but there is also other business to tend to.

The House this week reminded us that little things matter with approval of **reauthorization** legislation for **Head Start,** a Great Society program that has enjoyed bipartisan support because of its worthy service to poor young children.

Lyndon Johnson's program has withstood more than 30 years of partisan politics largely because it is difficult to argue against a program that so clearly embodies the nation's philosophy in fighting poverty: Education is key, and poor kids need to be ready to learn. When implemented as designed, the health and education programs of **Head Start** achieve that goal.

Nixon, Reagan, Bush, Clinton. They've all signed legislation allowing **Head Start** to continue.

That's not to say that **Head Start** hasn't been kicked around in political games. This year, for example, **reauthorization** legislation was held up for months because of odd provisions imposed by the House Education and Workforce Committee. That committee wanted to prohibit enrollment of children whose families receive welfare unless the mother helped establish paternity.

It also wanted to exempt **Head Start** from requirements under the Davis-Bacon Act that construction workers on federal projects be paid the "prevailing wage." And it wanted to allow **Head Start** agencies to give parents vouchers for temporary, private care if their center is forced to close.

All the provisions touch public policies that we've supported, but they are ancillary, even punitive, when attached to **Head Start reauthorization.**

Don't punish children because of their parents' mistakes. Construction is a pittance of the $4 billion **Head Start** budget. And the greater worry about access to preschool and child care is how to make available **Head Start** services to more children. Only 50 percent of eligible children, about 830,000, are served.

The debate specific to **Head Start** is whether the quality controls imposed during the last **reauthorization** have worked. The Department of Health and Human Services says they have. More than 100 centers have been terminated, and 200 have been rehabilitated to meet higher standards, according to press spokesman Michael Kharfen.

The House approved legislation Monday that extends the life of the program for five years without the provisions. The Senate had approved **Head Start** legislation earlier this summer. A conference committee will smooth over differences between the two bills. The primary sticking point is whether the proposed budget increase should go to expanding **Head Start** or continuing improvements in the quality of the program.

Getting a bill to the president is not an easy challenge for the conference committee, given the events of the day and a ticking clock. Authorization for **Head Start** expires Sept. 30, and Congress is set to go home in a couple of weeks.

A **Head Start** bill isn't, shall we say, a sexy issue in Washington. It's a little thing in today's very grand scheme of political intrigue. But there are at least 830,000 little reasons Congress should finish its work and give the president a bill to sign.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 19, **1998**

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Search: General News;head w/2 start and reauthorization and 1998

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: **House of Representatives**

The Washington Times

View Related Topics

September 15, **1998,** Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; NATION; Pg. A5

LENGTH: 524 words

HEADLINE: Head Start OK'd for 7 percent boost

BYLINE: Cheryl Wetzstein; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:
The House yesterday passed a bill to reauthorize the popular **Head Start** program for five years after jettisoning three amendments that Republicans said would have increased its flexibility and made it more accountable.

The bill, which passed 346-20, raises funding 7 percent for the 33-year-old early childhood development program for low-income preschoolers, from $4.3 billion to $4.6 billion.

It requires that, within five years, at least half of **Head Start** teachers must have a college degree.

The House bill passed yesterday didn't contain three controversial amendments approved by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in July.

The jettisoned amendments would have required **Head Start** children to have their paternities established, created **Head Start** "certificates" for parents to use at other early childhood development programs if a **Head Start** program wasn't available, and repealed a requirement that workers on **Head Start** construction projects be paid "prevailing" wages, a rule established by the 67-year-old Davis-Bacon Act.

Democrats on the education panel had unanimously rejected all three amendments, calling them unfair to children, a sneaky way to set up a voucher system and unfair to construction workers.

Yesterday, committee chairman Rep. Bill Goodling, Pennsylvania Republican, said the three amendments were important "in another place and another time," but were not needed in the **Head Start reauthorization.**

Rep. Frank Riggs, California Republican and a lead sponsor of the amendments, had protested the changes and didn't vote.

Rep. Mark Souder, Indiana Republican, said that failure to repeal the Davis-Bacon rule will keep construction costs high and ensure that "fewer **Head Start** centers will be built."

But Rep. Matthew G. Martinez of California, the committee's ranking Democrat, said Mr. Goodling's changes made the bill "strong" and "bipartisan."

The bill also reallocates most of **Head Start's** funds - 65 percent - to improving the quality of the program, with 25 percent to expanding the services.

By the fifth year, the formula reverts so that 65 percent of funds are spent on expansion and 25 percent is spent on quality. Ten percent of the budget goes to local needs.

The Senate's **Head Start reauthorization** bill retains the current funding formula of 75 percent of funds for expansion and 25 percent of funds for quality improvement. It doesn't set degree requirements for teachers.

These and other differences will be worked out by a conference committee.

Last year, **Head Start** served 830,000 preschoolers. Its effectiveness has been debated for much of its history, and the House bill attempts to address these questions by adding new "education performance" standards, "school readiness performance measures" and creating a "family literacy" program to help parents learn as well.

As part of the **Head Start** bill, the House also reauthorized funds for the Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and created a $100 million pilot project to help poor families to start "individual development accounts."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 15, **1998**

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

View Related Topics

March 24, 2000, Friday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 368 words

HEADLINE: Troubled **Head Start program** to shut down two centers

DATELINE: WINDHAM, Conn.

BODY:

The town school system is the first choice to take over management of an area **Head Start program** after an investigation by state and federal officials led to the **shutdown** last week of two facilities in Willimantic.

But state and federal officials say negotiations between the Access Agency, which owns the building, and the state agency that provided bonding for renovations are delaying the deal.

State and federal officials charged the Windham School Readiness Council and the town's human services department with finding new management and placing children after the Access Agency's facilities were closed for the remainder of the school year.

The council has found alternate day care placement for 22 of the 46 preschoolers and four of the 26 infants and toddlers displaced by the site closings.

The council voted Thursday in favor of a proposal that would name the Windham school system as the new management organization for the Valley Street facility.

Council Chairman Susan Collins said the proposal recommends the school system take over the facility, contingent upon the availability of funding.

The Access Agency surrendered its licenses after a yearlong investigation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and state health and social services officials.

A spokesman for the federal health department, said site inspections raised concerns about the training of the staff, conditions of the centers and the communication with parents.

The state Department of Children and Families is also investigating allegations of abuse at the facilities.

Earlier this week, Access shut down two of six day-care classrooms at a Head Start facility in Vernon and placed at least three staff members on paid administrative leave.

The DCF and state Department of Public Health are investigating two incidents involving the disciplining of one child and the lack of attention given to another, said Mary Oliver, Vernon's liaison to the Access agency.

A estimated 36 children between ages 3 and 5 were displaced by the classroom closings, Oliver said.

Access also operates day-care centers in Stafford, Thompson, Putnam, Sterling, Brooklyn, and one more in Windham.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2000

FOCUSTM
Search: General News;head w/2 start and programs and shutdown

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

FOCUS
Example: **House of Representatives**

Albuquerque Journal

May 5, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Metropolitan; Pg. B2

LENGTH: 554 words

HEADLINE: Board **Closes** Meeting, Keeps **Head Start**

BYLINE: Andrea Schoellkopf Journal Staff Writer

BODY:

The Sandoval County Economic Opportunity Corp. voted behind closed **doors** Wednesday to authorize its continuation of overseeing the **Head Start program.**

"I didn't want a circus," board president Joe Austin said in a telephone interview later.

Parents who had been told to wait outside the meeting because "personnel issues" were going to be discussed, angrily confronted Austin as he left the meeting at Wells Fargo Bank in Bernalillo. That resulted in three police cars pulling into the bank parking lot because of a complaint.

Parents subsequently filed a complaint with Bernalillo police, saying the state's Open Meetings Act had been violated.

An official from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government called the board's vote invalid.

"They clearly violated the Open Meetings Act," Bob Johnson, executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government said late Wednesday.

The nonprofit corporation oversees Head Start programs in Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Cuba, Pena Blanca and Jemez Valley. It is administered by a board of directors. Head Start is administered jointly by the corporation and a parent policy council.

The parent policy council had asked the agency board to relinquish Head Start so another agency could take it over.

"We won't recognize anything they put in their minutes," said Tom Hagen, president of the parent policy council, after board members had left the parking lot.

Under federal rules, Head Start parents are supposed to have a say in administrative and managerial decisions if the program gets federal grant money which it does.

Prior to Wednesday's meeting, Hagen gave Austin a list of 30 signatures of Head Start parents who had asked the corporation to relinquish the program.

Complaints about the organization triggered an April visit from the federal Administration for Children and Families, which provides money for Head Start programs in a five-state region.

The complaints include that the organization was bypassing the parent policy council in the hiring and firing of employees, fiscal mismanagement and the firing of employees who had alerted authorities about alleged child abuse and other concerns.

The corporation's chief executive officer, William Mast, has since resigned, saying he was going back to school.

The federal government has also asked the board to "relinquish or reorganize."

Some of the parents said they feared that if the board did not relinquish the program, then the federal officials could take it away and close the classrooms while the matter was being settled in the courts.

"I want to make sure the program stays for our children," said Bernalillo parent Amber Jaramillo.

Hagen has yet to sign the re-funding application so the agency can get money for Head Start again next year, partly because the agency just recently forwarded it to him. Under the circumstances, he said he is torn about signing it. The application was due to the federal officials May 1.

"This is ridiculous," Rio Rancho parent Judith Orozco said after hearing of the closed vote.

Parents praised the program's teachers, but said they wanted another organization to run Head Start in Sandoval County.

"That was just wrong what they did," said former Head Start parent Roxanne Avalos. "They act like it's nothing."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 5, 2000

The State Journal-Register(Springfield, IL)

August 9, 2000 Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1

LENGTH: 341 words

HEADLINE: Urban League **Head Start** getting fresh start

BYLINE: LISA KERNEK STAFF WRITER

BODY:
Springfield Urban League **Head Start is close** to being back in good standing with federal officials who uncovered evidence of money mismanagement last spring.

"The Urban League has worked very hard and made a lot of progress in the last 90 days," said Michael Kharfen, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington.

Federal inspectors on a routine site visit in April found evidence of financial mismanagement, including cleaning contracts that were awarded to a firm owned by Elizabeth Veal, the wife of Urban League President Howard Veal.

A federal inspector made a follow-up visit July 14. HHS officials who are reviewing recent corrections are expected to write the Urban League next week.

"Things are looking very good from where they were before," Kharfen said.

The agency has terminated the contracts with Elizabeth Veal's firm, ALVA Enterprises Inc. The agency had been paying ALVA $5,350 a month to clean three buildings.

The organization hired three different companies to clean five buildings beginning Sept. 1, said Nina Harris, vice president and director of family services. The agency will pay $4,883 a month to Patterson Quick Cleaning of Springfield, Kalola and Co. of Springfield and Pamela's Cleaning of Athens. All three firms submitted the lowest bids, Harris said.

New purchasing rules require the board of directors to approve any contract of $10,000 or more. The board will receive monthly reports on contracts worth between $5,000 and $9,999.

The agency also hired a new fiscal officer with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's in business administration after HHS inspectors said the fiscal officer's predecessor was unqualified.

The Urban League fixed other problems in response to the report, including transferring all financial records to one computer system.

The Springfield Urban League receives $4.1 million in federal dollars for Head Start, a preschool program serving more than 700 poor children age 4 and under.

NOTES:
ON WEB SITE

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 16, 2000

FOCUSTM
Search: General News;head w/2 start and closes

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

FOCUS

Example: **House of Representatives**

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The Tennessean

February 5, 2000, Saturday CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 582 words

HEADLINE: DAY CARE BACK IN BUSINESS;
TOM JOY CENTER HAS TAKEN NECESSARY STEPS, JUDGE SAYS

BYLINE: TRINE TSOUDEROS Staff Writer

BODY:

Metro's largest **Head Start** center will reopen Monday morning, three weeks after the state **shut** it **down** for dropping a toddler off at an empty house.

Staff members at Tom Joy **Head Start** Center are scrambling today to notify anxious parents of the 271 children enrolled at the center.

"I feel like a ton of bricks have been dropped off my shoulders," said Theresa Davis, who represents **Head Start** parents. "I feel great."

The decision to allow the center to reopen immediately was made late yesterday afternoon by Chancery Court Judge Ellen Hobbs Lyle, who found Tom Joy had taken appropriate steps to ensure no child would again be left unattended.

The chain of events that closed the largest of Metro's eight Head Start Centers began Jan. 10, when a Tom Joy van driver and accompanying monitor left a 4-year-old boy at his grandmother's place when she wasn't there.

Upon hearing of the incident, the state Department of Human Services took swift action under its new zero-tolerance policy. The policy was enacted after two separate incidents in Memphis last summer in which children died after being left in day-care vans in scorching heat.

Tom Joy fired its van driver and the monitor, retrained its remaining staff and put into place a new policy requiring parents or guardians to sign children on and off the vans every day.

For weeks parents have anguished over when the center would reopen, worried their children were missing valuable learning, and struggled to find other arrangements. Some parents had to quit their jobs to care for their children.

Yesterday, in a room packed with scores of parents, children, staff and teachers, the state Department of Human Services review board heard nearly five hours of testimony before deciding to place the center on probation through June 30 with conditions to be met before it could reopen.

Those conditions that the 18-member Head Start board adopt a handful of minor revisions to its transportation plan and that the staff receive training on those revisions left many parents and Tom Joy staff frustrated.

"I think they were too harsh," said David Ennis, whose stepdaughter quietly spent the morning spelling her name Brittany out in large, loopy penciled letters on small pieces of paper.

Ennis and Brittany's mother, Territa Vanlier, felt their daughter was safe at Tom Joy with the new policies in place and that she was missing out while it was closed.

Parents' support of Tom Joy became apparent as they burst into applause during the hearing, filling the chambers with echoing shouts of affirmation as staff members urged the board to reopen the center.

Arguing that getting the board together to approve minor revisions and then training the entire staff on the changes would be nearly impossible before Monday, Metro attorneys took their case to Lyle after the board's 2 p.m. decision.

The state must weigh the effect on families and community of keeping a center like Tom Joy closed, Lyle told a small, weary crowd gathered in her courtroom nine hours after the day's events began before the review board.

Lyle gave the center until Feb. 18 to comply with the review board's conditions.

"It is a balancing act," Lyle said.

And in this case, she said, the value of keeping Tom Joy shut, after it had taken precautions, did not seem to outweigh the effects on the community.

A few claps escaped members of the crowd, who suppressed their urge to shout with joy in the courtroom.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Cheryl Woodard-Black tells her son Jordan Woodard that he can return to school at Tom Joy Head Start, during a Department of Human Services review board hearing. Head Start's Theresa Davis, left, state Sen. Thelma Harper and parent Cheryl Woodard-Black li PHOTOS BY NINA LONG / STAFF

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 2000

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Search: General News;head w/2 start and shuts w/2 down

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: **House of Representatives**

The Denver Post

October 30, 1999 Saturday 2D EDITION

SECTION: DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-04

LENGTH: 396 words

HEADLINE: Head Start program **shut down** Changes planned in 2 counties

BYLINE: By Kit Miniclier, Denver Post Staff Writer,

BODY:

Problems within the **Head Start** program in two of Colorado's poorest counties, Costilla and Conejos, have prompted federal officials to give all 203 children next week off and offer all 73 employees a chance to reapply for their jobs.

The present governing board will relinquish control of the problem-plagued program Sunday. A Denver-based group, Community Development Institute Corp., will take over Monday and begin interviewing both reapplying and new applicants.

'Every effort has been made to avoid a prolonged disruption of Head Start services,' and classes are expected to resume Nov. 8, officials said Friday. The schools operate four days a week.

Federal officials called county commissioners and mayors in the two counties Friday afternoon to reassure them that the program will continue after only a few days, and new money will be granted to keep it running during the next 12 months.

Bickering among the local board and local policy council, both of which are unsalaried, and Bob Caldaron, the federal representative, as well as community restlessness about the program, were acknowledged by all concerned.

However, Beverly Turnbo, regional administrator for children and families with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, declined 'to trivialize the program by pointing fingers. If you point your finger at someone, remember the other three fingers are pointing at you,' she said.

Both Turnbo, who oversees all 40 Head Start programs in Colorado, and outgoing local board chairwoman Norma Jaquez expressed hope that the preschool program will continue and flourish, for the sake of the children and the communities.

The Conejos-Costilla Head Start program, 'has a track record of poor management. ... It became deficient last January' and was placed on high-risk status in August, Turnbo said.

The federal government picks up most of the $ 1.2 million annual tab for the program.

Head Start, which is designed to give children ages 3 to 5 a solid, preschool learning experience, was initiated by Lady Byrd Johnson in the 1960s when her husband, Lyndon, was president.

The interim, Denver-based administrators will be replaced by a new local governing board within one year, and Tumbo would like to see the program go to five days a week.

LOAD-DATE: November 01, 1999

Search: General News;head w/2 start and shuts w/2 down

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Example: **House of Representatives**