



Gary Herbert
Governor of Utah
Chair

Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
Vice Chair

Dan Crippen
Executive Director

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers, Senator Mikulski and Representative Lowey:

On behalf of the nation's governors, we urge Congress to enhance state early childhood education programs by continuing Preschool Development Grants as part of FY 2016 appropriations.

Governors understand that early childhood education is a key component of building a literate, knowledgeable and skilled 21st century workforce. Preschool Development Grants, including expansion grants, enable governors to build on their efforts to promote school readiness by accelerating state-focused innovation to improve access and quality in early childhood education. States use the program to better serve our youngest students, including English language learners and early learners with disabilities; improve the professional development of preschool teachers and administrators; and expand access to early education programs to thousands of students.

We look forward to working with you to build on the momentum in our states and support the continuation of the Preschool Development Grants program.

Sincerely,

Governor Jay Inslee
Chair
Education and Workforce Committee

Governor Robert Bentley
Vice Chair
Education and Workforce Committee