

Parent Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor in your Local Newspaper

1. Members of Congress are always checking local news; it's a great way to easily get your point across and make an impact with them, and it's even easier with NHSA's press team at your disposal!
2. We invite you to select a dedicated and capable parent to stand up for Head Start in your local press. Ask them to answer the below questions so that NHSA's press team can assist in drafting your letter. The answers can be brief – no more than one or two sentences for each. Once you have answered the questions, send them to Frank Nolan at fnolan@nhsa.org. NHSA's press team will draft you a letter that we will send back to you and the parent for final review.
 - a. Describe the circumstances in which many of your families live. Are they facing poverty, unemployment, language barriers or discrimination of any kind? Describe any obstacles your families and the children in them face.
 - b. What services do you provide to assist them with these challenges?
 - c. How many families and children do you serve? (Name of your program, please include the full address)
 - d. What impact have you seen your Head Start services have on children immediately – before starting kindergarten – and then over the long term?
3. Did you find that they have been better-prepared than their peers for primary and secondary school? Wellness? In what ways? Did Head Start put them on a path to attend college or other post-secondary education?
 - a. Do you have a particular memory about a special child or family and their success in your program?
 - b. How has your Head Start program affected the parents of the children you serve?
 - c. How do you think your children's lives would've been different if they had NOT attended Head Start?
 - d. Why should leaders in Washington invest in Head Start? In what ways do you think today's at-risk children can be improved by Head Start?
4. Once you have reviewed the letter, the press team will submit it to your local press or help you submit on your own. If you have preferences for where we pitch the letter, please let Frank know.
5. Once the letter gets published, send to the education staffer in your Member's DC office to share with them the work you do! We can send you a template and draft email to do this and ensure that your Member of Congress sees it.