

We need your help and hope you will take action. We need lots of letters to go to President Obama urging him to support local flexibility and parent engagement! Right now, the Final Head Start Performance Standards are being prepared for release. Before enacting the Final Rule is finalized, please ask the Obama Administration to carefully consider the comments submitted by the Head Start community - the practitioners - in order to ensure that Head Start's most central values - local flexibility and family engagement- are not compromised. Now is the time to ask the Administration to remind HHS how important local flexibility and parent and family engagement are in the Head Start model. Learn more and sign on
<http://www.supportheadstart.org/19354/ask-president-to-preserve-parent-engagement-local-flexibility/>

We still do not have a state budget. Eight months without a budget. The Governor will deliver his FY17 budget address on February 17th at noon. To listen by webcast go to <http://www.ilga.gov/house/audvid.asp>

Our partners at NHSA are launching a partnership with National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) that will provide grants of over \$160,000 over three years to five Head Start programs to enhance their family engagement work by incorporating NCFL's Family Learning program. To learn more about how your program can apply, join NHSA for a Webinar on Thursday, February 11th at 2:00 pm EST or contact Cathy Hardman at chardman@nhsa.org. Learn more and register at go.nhsa.org/Family-Learning

I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming Annual Conference, March 14-16th at our new location, Wyndham City Centre in Springfield.

Take care,

Lauri