

**U.S. House Committee on HHS, Labor and Education Appropriation  
for Fiscal Year 2010**

Report language included in the Committee passed bill concerning continued funding  
for the Even Start Family Literacy Program

***William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program***

“The Committee strongly recommends \$66,454,000 for Even Start, which is the same amount as the fiscal year 2009 funding level. Even Start provides grants to States for family literacy programs, integrating early childhood education, adult education and parenting education, for low-income families and their children, from birth to 7 years old. Generally, these parents are not in school, are above the State's age of compulsory school attendance, and have not earned a high school diploma (or its equivalent). The Committee does not agree with the Administration's proposal to eliminate Even Start, which is based on the results of flawed evaluation studies. For example, the *Third National Even Start Evaluation: Program Impacts and Implications for Improvement, 2003*, was based on a very small sample (1.5 percent) of Even Start projects, was not representative of Even Start participants and programs, and predated new accountability measures for the program. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to work with States to improve indicators of program quality, including assessments for dual language learners, and the effectiveness of Even Start instructional services.”