

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April , 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education  
184 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education  
123 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Senator Harkin,

We are writing to express our support for providing \$225 million for the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program in the FY2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

The Even Start Family Literacy Program helps break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by building literacy skills in both parents and children and improving the educational opportunities of the nation's lowest-income families. This program has successfully combined early childhood education, adult education, and parenting education into a single family literacy program. This comprehensive one-stop family literacy program is like no other.

Providing \$225 million for the Even Start program will help empower families to gain literacy skills, build strong families, earn a living wage, and move toward self-sufficiency. We believe this investment is justified because of the strong experimental research results that indicate families achieve strong and consistent literacy results each year. While we understand the need to balance priorities, we hope that you will provide Even Start with the support it needs to provide important education assistance to parents and children.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to working with you to support this effort.

Sincerely,

  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

  
Olympia J. Snowe