

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
19TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5836
FAX: (202) 226-1000
www.house.gov/platts



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ARMED SERVICES
EDUCATION AND LABOR
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

I am writing in support of the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program. I strongly encourage continued funding for this important program in H.J.Res. 44, the Further Continuing Appropriations Amendments.

Even Start is the only federal education program that teaches literacy skills to both parents and children. The program provides parents with the skills necessary to teach their children, while advancing their own education, and improving family relationships. Even Start also helps parents develop basic skills they need to identify job training programs and prepare for employment opportunities as they help their children enter school ready to learn. Children who participate in the Even Start program demonstrate significant learning gains -- preparing them for success in school.

Even Start helps those who are most in need. Nearly half of Even Start families earn less than \$6,000 per year. Ninety-one percent of families earn at or below federal poverty levels and are significantly poorer than most Head Start families. In 2006-2007, 90 percent of Even Start parents did not have a high school diploma or GED and 53 percent are English language learners.

Despite state evaluations and data documenting the success of Even Start, funding has diminished by 70 percent over the last five years. Elimination of this vital program will have devastating effects in the fight against illiteracy among children and adults. In these tough economic times, it is important for our nation to help families increase their education and economic security. Protecting the Even Start Family Literacy Program will help ensure that those most in need continue to gain the necessary language skills that help them find jobs, achieve economic security, and build successful futures.

I respectfully request that funding for Even Start remain in the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of my words of support for the Even Start Family Literacy Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd".

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS
Member of Congress

ADAMS COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
22 CHAMBERSBURG STREET
GETTYSBURG, PA 17325
TELEPHONE: (717) 338-1919
FAX: (717) 334-6314

CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
59 WEST LOUTHER STREET
CARLISLE, PA 17013
TELEPHONE: (717) 249-0190
FAX: (717) 218-0190

YORK COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
2209 EAST MARKET STREET
YORK, PA 17402
TELEPHONE: (717) 600-1919
FAX: (717) 757-5001