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Flowers Early Learning Advocates for Head Start Funding to Protect Michigan’s Children and Families

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As federal budget discussions continue, Flowers Early Learning calls on policymakers to protect vital funding for Head Start programs that serve Michigan’s most vulnerable children and families. Chanda Hillman, Executive Director of Flowers Early Learning, testified before the Michigan Senate Oversight Committee on March 5th, raising awareness of the real impact these programs have on communities and the devastating consequences of potential cuts.



“Head Start serves 28,532 Michigan children across every corner of our state, bringing in \$407 million in federal funding to our local communities,” said Hillman. “Nationally, 1,600 grant recipients like mine serve nearly 800,000 children. But these aren’t just numbers—they represent real children, real families, and real futures at stake.”



Head Start provides critical support to children and families by offering quality early learning, nutritious meals, health screenings, and family resources that set children up for success in school and beyond. These services break barriers and create opportunities for lifelong success.

“In our three counties alone, we have served over 40,000 children. If funding goes away, 583 children will lose their early education opportunities, 200 staff members will lose their jobs, and entire communities will feel the ripple effects,” said Hillman. “This isn’t just a funding issue—it’s a workforce issue, a public health issue, and a future-of-Michigan issue.”

Flowers Early Learning urges policymakers, community leaders, and advocates to recognize the gravity of this situation and take action to ensure the stability of early childhood education programs. The futures of our children, our workforce, and our communities depend on it.

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