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Media Contact: Sally Aman
[202-262-8003](tel:202-262-8003)
aman@a2pr.com

**National Head Start Association Statement on
The Introduction of the Strong Start for America's Children Act of 2013**

Washington, DC—Today Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Congressman George Miller, Ranking Member on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and Congressman Richard Hanna of New York introduced legislation to expand access to pre-kindergarten programs across the United States. The following statement should be attributed to Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director of the National Head Start Association:

“The National Head Start Association thanks Senator Harkin, Representative Miller, and Representative Hanna for their work to craft legislation aimed at giving low and middle income four-year-olds across the United States a chance to attend quality pre-kindergarten programs, while also expanding quality early learning programs by investing in Early Head Start and developing child care partnerships.

The draft released today represents a thoughtful starting point as we move forward to ensure that the birth to kindergarten system we ultimately build provides accessible, intensive comprehensive services for our most vulnerable children and families.

Decades of research show that a high-quality pre-kindergarten program experience has lasting effects, particularly for our most at-risk children. We applaud the sponsors of the Strong Start for America Act for their leadership and look forward to continuing to work with them over the coming weeks and months to refine the legislation.”

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For more information about the National Head Start Association visit www.nhsa.org